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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

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OF INDIA

PRICE ₹6

RS MP Raghav Chadha issues rebuttal to AAP allegations, quotes Bollywood dialogue, 'Ghayal hoon isiliye ghaatak hoon'

Committed to
Nari Shakti Vandan

Nearly 12 crore women like me have received safe maternity care

Crores of children like me are getting full nutrition

My child and I are getting vaccinated on time

CBC 22201/13/0001/2627

9 minors, 4 others caught for phone theft at stadium

Bengaluru police arrested 13 people, including nine juveniles from Jharkhand, for stealing around 70 mobile phones during the IPL opener at Chinnaswamy Stadium. They targeted crowded areas inside and near the venue. Police found 75 phones & are probing links to similar thefts elsewhere. **P 2**

4-storey lodge in MP collapses: 2 dead, many hurt

Two people died and several others were trapped in the debris after a 10-year-old four-storey lodge collapsed Saturday in Kotna town of MP's Anuppur district, allegedly due to the impact of digging at an adjacent house. Three people have been rescued so far, Anuppur SP Moti Ur Rahman said. TNN

Left to bleed for 20 mins, stabbed girl dies in Delhi

A girl (15) who stepped out to buy medicines and was stabbed multiple times in Delhi Friday, died on Saturday. The victim had bled at the spot for over 20 minutes before help arrived. The family awaited her 10th class board results. "We were so hopeful for her future," her uncle said. TNN

Pilot missing, six planes lost: Trump's Tehran test

High-Risk Rescue Op Under Way For F-15 Airman

Chidanand Rajghatta

Washington: The loss of at least six US planes in the war on Iran and the uncertain fate of a missing American pilot has quickly evolved from a battlefield incident into a defining political test for President Donald Trump, who has built his brand on deriding the foreign policy failures of his predecessors and projecting an image of himself as an invincible leader.

As Pentagon officials confirm that a high-risk rescue operation is underway deep inside hostile Iranian territory, the stakes now extend far beyond the recovery of a single airman. For Trump, who has repeatedly cast himself as the antithesis of what he calls America's "weak" leadership past, the mission carries symbolic weight that could either validate or puncture his long-cultivated aura of derring-do and dominance.

The urgency is compounded by mounting US air losses in the escalating confrontation with Iran, raising concerns within defence circles about operational overreach and sustainability of the campaign. In addition to an F-15E fighter jet and A-10 attack plane lost this week, US has also lost an AWACS and three F-15s to "friendly fire" in Kuwait.

While one pilot of the F-15E downed by Iran Friday was rescued, another remains missing. Two US search and rescue helicopters were hit by Iranian fire, injuring personnel on board, unnamed officials told US media.

US officials also said the pilot of the A-10 shot by Iran Thursday navigated it to Kuwaiti airspace before ejecting and was rescued.

FULL COVERAGE
P 3, 13 & Page Opp

▶See: PAGE OPP

IRAN'S BUSHEHR N-PLANT HIT 4TH TIME

- Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant, located in the south, hit by US-Israeli airstrike. **Security guard killed, no damage to plant**
- Iranian foreign minister says plant has been hit four times, and **'radioactive fallout will end life in GCC capitals, not Tehran'**
- Located on Gulf coast, the **plant is closer to Kuwait City and Doha than to Tehran**, which is more than 750km away
- Russia's state N-corpn **Rosatom says 198 workers being evacuated** from the plant; 400 have been evacuated so far

A video grab shows a US Chinook in Kuwait. Iranian media claimed it took a hit on a search mission for the US F-15E downed on Friday

- Iran **authorises passage of ships carrying essential and humanitarian goods** through the Strait of Hormuz to its ports

"Remember when I gave Iran 10 days to make a deal or open up the Hormuz Strait... **Time is running out – 48 hours before all hell will reign (sic) down on them**" —Donald Trump, US PRESIDENT

"Deeply grateful to Pak for its efforts... **never refused to go to Islamabad.** What we care about are the terms of a conclusive end to the illegal war" —Abbas Araghchi, IRAN FGN MINISTER

Eating out in Bengaluru set to pinch

Eating out in Bengaluru may get costlier with restaurants set to hike prices by 3% to 10% amid shortages of LPG cylinders and soaring costs, forcing eateries to hike menu rates. Restaurant owners say they can no longer absorb the costs, **reports Vindhya Pabolu**. However, larger establishments indicated that price revisions are not entirely linked to the current crisis. "Every year on April 1, we revise prices," said a managing partner at MTR. **P 3**

2 TMC workers held for voter intimidation

Kolkata/Behrampore: Two Trinamool workers have been arrested in Canning and Berhampore for allegedly threatening voters openly, with one of them saying a "steamroller would be run over betrayers", **report Monotosh Chakraborty & Sukumar Mahato**.

Hafizul Molla issued the "steamroller" threat in Canning for TMC candidate Baharul Islam on Tuesday, allegedly warning voters who do not back Bengal's governing party about consequences after the assembly poll results on May 4.

▶Clear example, P 5

9-judge bench to hear Sabarimala case from April 7

New Delhi: A nine-judge Constitution bench of Supreme Court will begin hearing Sabarimala reference matter on April 7, examining judicial review of religious practices under Article 25, including whether women can be barred from certain places of worship.

Led by CJI Surya Kant, the bench will address broader issues beyond Sabarimala, including similar disputes across faiths, and consider seven key questions on religious freedom and its balance with denominational rights under Article 26. TNN

Women should ensure quota bills passed unopposed: Modi

'It's Lie That South States Will Lose In Delimitation Move'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvalla/New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi Saturday made his first comments on the govt's move to implement women's reservation law from next Lok Sabha polls, as he asked women to bear pressure on the opposition to ensure related bills are passed in Parliament unopposed, while rejecting as lie the charge that southern states will lose out in the delimitation exercise due to their success in controlling population.

At a poll rally in Thiruvalla in Kerala, the PM said Parliament's budget session will reconvene for three days from April 16 so that law for 33% quota for women in Lok Sabha and assemblies is implemented from the 2029 LS polls.

He confirmed the delimitation exercise to increase the seats of legislatures by the same number that will be set aside for women. "People are spreading the lie that seats will fall in number where population is declining. We want Parliament's stamp on the law that be it Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra, Goa or Telangana, LS seats do not decline," he said, acknowledging their good work in controlling population.

Govt's proposal is to increase number of seats in legislatures by about 50% — number of LS constituencies will be upped to 816 from current 543 — so that additional number is allotted exclusively for women, he said but without giving out exact numbers.

PM Modi during a roadshow in Thiruvalla, Kerala, on Saturday

PTI

"Women should pressure all political parties. I also appeal to them that this right of our mothers and sisters is pending for 40 years. It should not remain so in the 2029 polls

Narendra Modi | PRIME MINISTER

▶Pressure parties, P 11

Amid Mehli's challenge, Venu quits a Tata trust

Mumbai: TVS Motor chairman emeritus **Venu Srinivasan** has resigned from the board of the Bai Hirabai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution, citing preoccupation with his business, sources said, **reports Reeba Zachariah**.

The move comes amid former BHI trustee Mehli Mistry's challenge to the trusteeships of non-Zoroastrians and his demand for a regulatory probe.

The restrictions apply to BHI and not to the other nine Tata Trusts, where Srinivasan continues to serve on the board, said the sources. He resigned from BHI Friday, they said. Srinivasan did not reply to an emailed query on the matter.

▶Non-Zoroastrians, P 5

IN THE COURTS

- **Maternal grandparents get custody of 13-year-old** boy as Orissa HC upholds family court order, saying **child's welfare is priority** | P 5
- A consumer court in Bengaluru **finds insurer guilty of denying cancer claim**, orders it to pay Rs 5 lakh | P 4
- Rajasthan **HC upholds cancellation of 2021 SI recruitment exam,** backing single-bench order citing **paper leak malpractices** | P 5
- Kerala court **grants 3-day police custody of film director Ranjith** arrested over **sexual harassment on a film set** | P 5

Fire guts 6 shacks in Goa, no injuries

Just four months after an inferno at a nightclub in Goa's Arpora killed 25 people, six private shacks at nearby Arambol beach were gutted in a fire early Saturday. Some tourists and staffers were present at the time but no one was harmed. Chief minister Pramod Sawant ordered an inquiry. TNN

Tiger was poisoned, then electrocuted

Satpura's rewilded tiger that died last month was electrocuted after the first attempt to kill it by poisoning failed, investigators have found. The radio-collared tiger was killed by illegal opium cultivators. **P 5**

UP man serving in Russian army killed

Mohd Shaved, 22, from Mawasi village in Rampur was killed while serving in the Russian army during the war in Ukraine. He was coerced into military service, his family said. TNN

K'taka plans EV charging points every 60-70km on state highways

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Bengaluru: Electric vehicle (EV) users travelling on state highways in Karnataka may soon find a charging station every 60-70km.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), in partnership with Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), has moved to expand EV charging infrastructure across the state to facilitate mobility of electric vehicles.

The push comes amid concerns over fluctuating fuel supplies linked to the ongoing West Asia war. Karnataka already leads the nation in EV charging station density, & the new plan aims to further extend coverage across KRDCL's 3,000km road network.

Sources in Bescom said KRDCL granted permission a month ago to install EV charging points at toll plazas, bus bays, truck laybys and at its central Bengaluru office.

"KRDCL has planned its facilities in such a way that you will either find a toll plaza or a bus-truck bay every 60-70km on highways. These points will have EV charging facility in a few months' time," a senior Bescom engineer said.

Bescom managing director N Shivashankara said: "We will have to set up and maintain these EV charging facilities without obstructing traffic flow on state highways. We are yet to sign the official MoU with KRDCL. The MoU will allow land revenue sharing at Rs 1 per kWh of electricity consumed for a period of 10 years."

He added that once completed, the network would "provide seamless charging access to EV users". Joint inspections by Bescom and KRDCL engineers have identified most sites as viable.

"Out of the 42 toll plazas inspected, 30 were found to be feasible for EV charging facilities," another senior Bescom engineer said.

MOST SITES IN STATE VIABLE

- Bescom & KRDCL to expand **electric vehicle charging network**
- Push comes amid **fuel supply concerns** following West Asia conflict
- Charging points planned across 3k-km KRDCL road network in K'taka
- Inspections by **Bescom and KRDCL teams** identify most proposed sites as viable
- Points to come up **at toll plazas, bus bays and truck laybys** every 60–70 km

▶Six EVs at once, P 4

KEDARNATH UNDER A SNOW BLANKET

PTI

Snow blankets the Kedarnath temple premises following fresh snowfall in the region, in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand Saturday. Continuous snowfall in the district has disrupted preparations for the Char Dham Yatra scheduled to begin on April 22. The yatra starts with the Yamunotri pilgrimage site, followed by Gangotri, Kedarnath and concludes at Badrinath

6 kids among 9 of family killed as car falls into well in Maha

Nashik: Nine members of a farmer's family, including six kids, were killed when their vehicle went straight off a concrete road and into a well that wasn't adequately secured in Maharashtra's Dindori town late Friday, **reports Santosh Sonawane**.

The well sits directly at the end of the road and is ringed by a safety wall barely a foot high, making it difficult to spot at night.

Driver Sunil Dargude, 32, was believed to be unfamiliar with the route. Police filed a case against the driver and the well's owner Rajendra Raje. "Residents are angry with him. Raje fled the village with his family the same night," an officer said, adding that efforts are on to nab him.

A sombre mood gripped Indore village, home to the Dargudes. "This is the first time in our village's history that nine funeral pyres have been lit at once," said relative Deepak Dhatrak.

Search ops for missing Kerala trekker in Kodagu draws a blank

Rajendra | TNN

Madikeri: Forest and police personnel Saturday failed to trace Sharanya, a 36-year-old IT professional from Kerala who disappeared during a trek to Tadiandamol, the highest peak in Kodagu.

The techie had checked into a homestay near Kakkabe on Thursday.

Despite deploying drones, dog squads and enlisting help from local residents, authorities were unable to trace her.

Police said her family was not aware of her travel plans to Kodagu.

Sharanya, a native of Nadapuram in Kozhikode district, is employed with an IT firm in Kochi. Her brother Shyam, who arrived on Saturday with relatives, said his sister is physically fit and an experienced trekker.

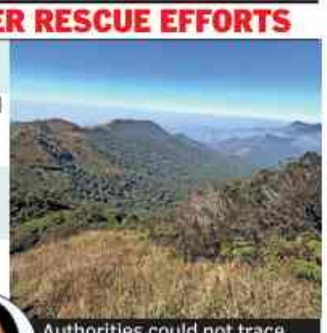
Police have registered a missing person case at Napoklu station, while Kodagu superintendent of police Bindu Mani said trained personnel from anti-naxal force (ANF) were also deployed to help in the search operations. ANF has more experience in navigating such rugged terrain.

Officials said the search has been hindered by rain and dense fog in the region.

Sharanya had booked a trek slot online as a solo trekker. However, forest authorities sent her with other tourists for safety as the area has wild elephants.

RAIN, FOG HAMPER RESCUE EFFORTS

- **Sharanya**, 36, goes missing during trek at **Tadiandamol**
- Family unaware of her travel plans; brother says she is **an experienced trekker**
- Though she booked for a solo trek, **authorities sent her with other trekkers**
- Phone tracking unreliable due to **network issues** near Kerala border
- Rain, **dense fog and rugged terrain** hamper search operations



Authorities could not trace Sharanya even after deploying drones and using a dog squad on Saturday

▶Mobile networks, P 4

Help pours in for women's football league coach in MP

A day after **TOI** reported how the coach of the District Raisen Football Club in Madhya Pradesh staked everything to take a ragtag team of underprivileged women footballers to Tier 2 of the elite Indian Women's League, offers of help came pouring in for **Param Ashawar**. He had borrowed Rs 10 lakh to support his wards. On Saturday, he had already got assurances for Rs 15 lakh from varied donors like a Kolkata industrialist, a Jaipur-based private firm and avowed football fans from Kerala to Delhi. "It's not just about the money, it's about believing in these girls," one donor said. **P 5**

TIMES IMPACT

Vizag's pet cemetery with poetic epitaphs tell tails of lost love

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Visakhapatnam: Paw prints in stone. A seaside patch in Visakhapatnam. It is a place where tails once wagged, where fetch and footsteps linger in memory, where every headstone reads like a final pat and a promise — "Until I meet you in the afterlife…"

Along a sandy stretch near Appughar — a beachfront leisure zone on the city's northeastern coast — rows of modest grey memorials honour the cherished pets who crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Loving owners have turned this shoreline into a resting place for their beloved dogs, marking graves with inscriptions that read like letters to family.

"May you return home to us." "You left paw prints on our hearts." "Chinnoda malli ravali (little one, you should be born again)." "Missed beyond measure." "My hardest goodbye." "You are gone from our lives but never from our hearts."

Across cultures and centuries, dogs have been humankind's most loyal companions — a bond that outlives time. Here, that devotion takes form in sand and stone. Families speak of reunion in another life. Some call their pets "beloved daughter", "brave boy", "brother in spirit", "Chinni Krishnudu (little Krishna)".

Markers reaffirm the sentiment. Pets become "Babu", "Nanna", "Kanna (dear child)". Owners sign off as mummy, daddy, siblings.

Along a sandy stretch near Appughar — a beachfront leisure zone on Vizag's coast — modest grey memorials honour cherished pets

▶Carry no end date, P 10

3 students offer to help drunk driver, kill him & flee with car

Nagpur: A roadside "goodwill" gesture turned murderous when three engineering students, who initially helped a drunk driver, allegedly killed him hours later in Nagpur to steal his red Alto car and phones, **reports Soumitra Bose**.

Police said Saturday the trio — Aryan Shende, 22, Rishabh Kamble, 20, and Anuj Ramesh, 19 — spotted 44-year-old spare parts supplier Suchit Bhojapure slumped over the steering wheel of his car late Thursday on a flyover.

Bhojapure, heavily intoxicated, allegedly asked them to drive him. What began as help stretched into a longer ride — first a delivery run to Bhiwapur, near Nagpur, and then towards his home in Wadi, on the city's western outskirts.

▶Call to victim's wife, P 5

Bangalore Times
'Studios doubted The Devil Wears Prada as it was chick flick'
A cabinet that could headline a music fest
PINK ELEPHANT BOW: PETA URGES ARTIST TO PULL THE ARTWORK
P8
Family, faith and fresh starts: Krystle Dsouza on Easter
P8

Joseph Quinn

Aimee Lou Wood

VERSACE

BITE-SIZED DATA? PATCHY STRAY COUNT UNDER LENS

2,670 Dogs Tallied At Institutions

Sanjay Murty & Hamsaveni N | TNN

Bengaluru: Following the Supreme Court directive to identify, remove, and relocate stray dogs from institutional areas, three of Bengaluru's five city corporations have only released partial data on the number of dogs found in these premises.

Central, North, and West city corporations have reported 504, 875, and 591 stray dogs, respectively, in areas such as educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, and stadiums, as well as bus stands, depots, and railway stations. South and East corporations have reported 331 and 369 dogs, respectively, at institutions. This takes the total number of dogs in institutional areas in Bengaluru to 2,670.

However, concerns have been raised over the accuracy and completeness of the data. East and South corporations haven't officially released the number of stray dogs. South corporation has only released details of institutions and nodal officers, while East has only released the details of junior health inspectors in charge of each ward. In the West corporation list, hundreds of institutions have not reported the number of stray dogs. In North corporation limits, the expansive GKVK campus has reported no stray dogs — an assertion that appears inconsistent with ground realities. Similarly, Central corporation's data does not include the Central College campus.

According to the chief veterinary officer of Bengaluru Central City Corporation, MH Reddy, nodal officers from institutions were assisted by staff from the health and revenue departments during the survey. "Since the current data reflects a survey conducted nearly three months ago, a review will be undertaken shortly," he said.

The infrastructure for relocating dogs is still being developed. A senior Central corporation official said 5 acres of land have been allocated in Bingipura, near Anekal, for a shelter with a capacity of 500 dogs. The facility, estimated to cost Rs 2 crore, is under construction. "We invited tenders from NGOs to manage the shelter but received no response. The process has now been initiated again," he added.

In North corporation limits, two shelters are planned. While construction has commenced in Medarahalli, the Dasarahalli project is yet to be finalised, according to chief veterinary officer Sunil Kumar Havanur. West corporation has identified Summanahalli as the site for its proposed dog shelter.

No supervising powers

On the low numbers reported by some large institutions, GBA's deputy director (animal husbandry) T Chandraiah said, "Some institutions might have taken a decision to build their own shelters for dogs and might have reported the numbers accordingly. We only consolidate the data given by the corporations and submit it to the court. GBA's animal husbandry department has no overseeing powers to direct the corporations on how the surveys are conducted."

TOI

GROUND REALITY: Stray dogs at Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University. The campus is not listed among the institutions with strays

HOW MANY, WHERE

Corporations

Central	504
North	875
West	591
East	369
South	331

Total 2,670

Institutions

GKVK: **0**
Victoria Hospital: **6**
CV Raman General Hospital: **8**
Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology: **18**
Nimhans: **90**
IISc: **80**
Bangalore University (JB campus): **51**
KSR Bengaluru railway station: **42**

Source: GBA

IN A FIRST, ₹50CR IN BUDGETS FOR CANINE CONTROL

Bengaluru's 5 civic corporations have collectively set aside about Rs 50 crore for stray dog management in their 2026-27 budgets. This is the first time that dedicated and large-scale allocations have been made for stray control, welfare, and public safety in Bengaluru. East corporation has allocated Rs 26.5cr — more than half the collective budget — while North, which has one of the highest stray populations in the city, has the second-highest outlay.

EAST CORPN — Total outlay ₹26.5cr
- Permanent dog shelter (500 capacity): **Rs 12 crore**
- Sterilisation surgeries: **Rs 6 crore**
- New ABC centre in Mahadevapura: **Rs 4 crore**
- Veterinary clinics: **Rs 2 crore**
- Animal crematorium: **Rs 2 crore**
- Mobile veterinary unit: **Rs 50 lakh**

NORTH CORN — Total outlay ₹11.8cr
- Sterilisation of 12,000 dogs: **Rs 3 crore**
- Vaccination of 65,000 dogs: **Rs 5 crore**
- Permanent shelter (500 capacity): **Rs 3.8 crore**

CENTRAL CORPN — Total outlay ₹5cr
- Shelters
- Veterinary hospitals
- Crematoriums
- Vaccination & microchipping drives covering over 30,000 dogs

WEST CORPN — Total outlay ₹3.1cr
- ABC & anti-rabies programmes: **Rs 1.1 crore**
- Shelter and ABC centre: **Rs 2 crore**
- Target to sterilise 70% of stray dogs
- Create pet-friendly parks & promote adoption and coexistence

SOUTH CORPN — Total outlay Unspecified
- Proposes expanding its limited ABC capacity by adding sterilisation centre
- Constructing a 500-dog capacity shelter
- Introducing mobile crematorium services
- Includes measures to manage stray cattle

9 juveniles among 13 caught for phone theft at stadium

Times News Network

Bengaluru: City police have arrested 13 persons, including nine juveniles from Jharkhand, for allegedly stealing at least 70 mobile phones from spectators during the IPL inaugural match at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 28.

@IPL OPENER

On the night of the match, several spectators approached Cubbon Park police reporting the theft of their mobile phones. Suspecting an organised gang, and noting similar incidents during IPL matches in Chennai and Mumbai last year, police formed special teams to investigate the case.

Using digital evidence, officers traced and arrested one of the key accused, **Shubham Kumar**, 26, from Jharkhand. He was found staying in a hotel near Shivajinagar. During interrogation, Kumar confessed that he, along with a group of minors, had travelled to Bengaluru two days before the match with the sole intention of stealing mobile phones in and around the stadium.

Based on his statement, police detained three minor boys and recovered 21 stolen phones. The juveniles were later sent to a juvenile home. Investigations initially hit a setback after other suspects fled the city. However, police tracked them and sent teams to Jharkhand and Odisha, where the remaining accused were arrested.

Apart from Shubham Kumar, the arrested include Eshan Kumar, 23, Sanjeeth Kumar, 24, and Sohan Kumar, 23. Police recovered a total of 75 mobile phones, of which 70 were stolen and five belonged to the accused.

DCP (Central) Akshay M Hakay said the four adult accused were produced before a local court and taken into police custody. "We are verifying their antecedents to see whether they have been involved in similar crimes in other places or only in Bengaluru," he said.

Police said most thefts occurred inside the stadium near gates 1, 2 and 3, and at stand P3. Additional incidents were reported near Cubbon Park Metro station as crowds exited after the match.

FANS DUPED BY FAKE TICKET WEBSITE

City police have registered a suo motu case against miscreants duping members of the public on the pretext of selling online tickets to Sunday's IPL match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Chennai Super Kings.

The case has been registered with Hulimavu police station. According to a preliminary assessment, at least six victims have lost around Rs 50,000 through the fake website **(in pic)** under the name 'IPL Dhamaka Sale', said DCP (E-City) M Narayana.

The complaint registered by constable Ramakrishna, who works in the cybercrime wing, said, "On Saturday, while surfing Facebook, I came across a link, announcing that they are selling tickets for Sunday's IPL match. The original website run by the authorities had clearly mentioned that all the tickets were sold out. The fake website is duping victims of money with false promises of IPL tickets." TNN

India has moved to self-reliance in defence, says DRDO officer

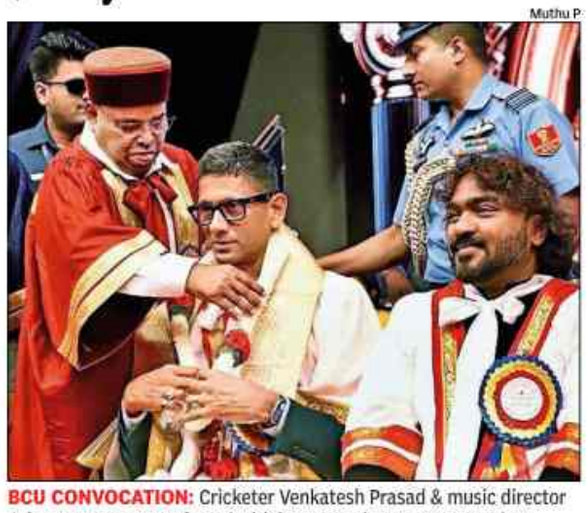
Times News Network

Bengaluru: India has moved from being an "import-denial nation" to a self-reliant country in defence, with expanding opportunities in the sector, said Binay Kumar Das, director general (electronics and communication system), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Speaking at the fifth convocation of Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, he said with more than 500 negative import lists, India is strengthening domestic defence manufacturing. He urged students to contribute to national development through innovation and science.

Karnataka governor Thawar Chand Gehlot called on students to recognise their responsibilities towards society and the nation. "Today, when the world is facing climate change, social inequality, and economic challenges, your role becomes even more important. You must be responsible citizens who protect the environment, are sensitive to weaker sections of society, and contribute to inclusive development."

Higher education minister MC Sudhakar, who is also the pro-chancellor of state universities, was absent from the event. His office told **TOI** he was campaigning for elections. The university awarded 37,393 degrees, including 23 PhDs, 7,484 postgraduate, and 29,880 UG degrees. Sixty-four gold medals were presented. Cricketer Venkatesh Prasad and music director Arjun Janya were among five individuals conferred with honorary doctorates at the ceremony.



Muthu P

BCU CONVOCATION: Cricketer Venkatesh Prasad & music director Arjun Janya were conferred with honorary doctorates Saturday

RGUHS mandates drug and POSH panels for affiliation

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Bengaluru: Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) has made it mandatory for all colleges to have an anti-drug task force committee and a POSH (prevention of sexual harassment) panel for continuation of affiliation.

Details of both committees will have to be produced in the local inquiry committee reports that are furnished for renewal of affiliation. The university, in two circulars, has directed colleges to build and strengthen these panels.

In the Feb 16 circular, the university directed colleges to form Nasha Mukth Task Force at the college level with principal, faculty coordination, hostel wardens, counsellor, student representatives of each academic year, parent representatives, and local police officers as members.

The committee has been given a list of guidelines to follow, including creating a counselling cell on campus with trained counsellors, providing confidential help to students struggling with addiction and forming nasha mukth (drug-free) clubs on the lines of NSS or Youth Red Cross. The circular stated tat a drug-free campus certificate issued by the university is mandatory for continuation of affiliation.

The Oct 25 circular to strengthen POSH committee came following the rape and murder of a postgraduate student in Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. In the circular, the university issued guidelines on increasing campus security, ensuring all areas are well-lit and CCTV surveillance.

"The university has constituted a POSH committee with the senate and syndicate members and also asked colleges to do the same and report back to us. Similarly, we have issued directions for the anti-drug task force too. This will be included in the local inquiry committee format. No affiliation will be provided unless the college has these committees in place," RGUHS vice-chancellor Bhagavan BC explained.

GBA, 5 civic corpns begin using logos

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Bengaluru: Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the city's five corporations have begun using new logos across their official websites and social media platforms.

The logos were finalised at an executive committee meeting on March 20 chaired by deputy CM DK Shivakumar. While an official unveiling was expected, the designs have instead been introduced without a formal launch.

The GBA logo **(in pic)** features a circular format with the authority's name in Kannada and English, retaining the Kempegowda-era boundary tower from the former BBMP emblem. It also includes an image of Kempegowda. The five corporations have adopted logos that retain only the boundary tower motif, each differentiated by distinct colour schemes and bilingual text. Officials said the designs were created by students of Chitrakala Parishath.

"As many as 58 draft logo designs were prepared, reflecting a mix of heritage and contemporary styles. The selected ones were picked during the meeting," a senior official said.

Woman's a/c used as mule in ₹10L fraud

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Bengaluru: A seemingly helpful offer to enrol in a govt welfare scheme turned into a financial nightmare for a 55-year-old homemaker, whose bank account was allegedly used to route cybercrime transactions worth over Rs 10 lakh.

According to a complaint filed by Parvathi, a resident of Ramamurthy Nagar, with the east cybercrime police Monday, she was duped by Sangamesh, a former colleague of her son, Ramesh.

The ordeal began in April 2025, when Sangamesh approached Ramesh claiming he could help enrol Parvathi in the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, promising a monthly benefit of Rs 2,000. He said agents usually charged Rs 10,000 as processing fee but he could complete the process for Rs 7,000.

At the time, Ramesh was largely occupied with caring for his ailing mother. Trusting Sangamesh, he explained the offer to Parvathi, who agreed. Ramesh then shared his mother's PAN card details with Sangamesh over WhatsApp.

Soon after, Sangamesh insisted that Parvathi open an account in a private bank's Banaswadi branch, claiming it would expedite approval of the scheme. With limited knowledge of banking procedures, Parvathi visited the branch with her son and opened a savings account as suggested.

Later that day, Sangamesh met Ramesh in Hoysala Nagar and collected the bank kit, including the passbook, debit card, chequebook, along with Rs 5,000 as commission. Within days, he also obtained the OTP under the pretext of logging into the account to check the application status.

Weeks passed without any update. When contacted, Sangamesh initially blamed the delays on "govt server issues" before eventually becoming unreachable.

The truth surfaced recently when police informed Parvathi that transactions worth Rs 10.6 lakh had been routed through her account, which was used as a mule account. Police have registered a case under the Information Technology Act and BNS Section 318 (cheating).

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26-yr-old from Rajasthan found dead on pavement

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A 26-year-old man was found stabbed to death on the pavements of Balagere Main Road, Varthur, in the wee hours of Saturday.

The victim has been identified as M Dala Ram from Rajasthan. He was residing with his cousin in Varthur. "He had come to the city four days ago, looking for a job. We are questioning his cousins and others about the incident," a police officer said.

Brawl ends in murder

A brawl between three friends ended on a fatal note as two stabbed the other to death in JC Nagar Saturday. The victim is Vijay alias Layout, 25, of RT Nagar.

Police arrested the accused — Uday Kiran and Vinod Kumar, both in their late 20s — on charges of stabbing Vijay to death. "Vijay had allegedly abused Uday's girlfriend, making Uday angry. The accused persons fought with Vijay near a bar around 11am, Saturday and stabbed him to death," a cop said.

ROWDY BOOKED

City police have booked a 30-year-old rowdy-sheeter facing more than 29 criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder, extortion and dacoity, under the Goonda Act. The accused, Vinay Kumar from Mahalakshmi Layout, is in judicial custody at Central Prison. The Goonda Act will force him to remain in judicial custody for one year without bail.

Engineer's assault sparks protests

Tensions flared in Ballari after an assistant executive engineer of the municipal corporation was allegedly assaulted during a ward-level programme Friday, triggering protests by civic staff and sparking a political row.

GM Veeresh, serving as in-charge AEE, was allegedly attacked by Congress corporator V Kuber during the 'Salam Ballari' outreach led by MLA Nara Bharat Reddy on April 3. The incident is said to have stemmed from a dispute over delays in removing an encroachment. TNN

The question isn't who is going to let me, it's who is going to stop me - Ayn Rand

Colour story

Chase the glow across maps

Midnight sun and the moody blues

FINOLEX FORTUNE

YOUR POV

Gelato carts, mango bars: Summer wedding headliners

Gas shortage bites: Eateries may push up rates by 3-10%

Dosa, Gobi Manchurian Get Costlier

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Bengaluru: Eating out in the city is set to become costlier, with restaurant bills likely to rise by 3% to 10% as hotels grapple with rising LPG costs and supply shortages. Several small and mid-sized eateries have already increased menu prices over the past few days to stay afloat.

An eatery owner from VV Puram, operating since 2010, said, "Many hoteliers are forced to buy it on the black market, even though it's not something we want to admit. Small vendors are struggling — prices of items like dosa and gobi manchurian have gone up by around Rs 30. Earlier, I used to get four cylinders, now I get only one, that too at a very high price. When we cannot add separate service or gas charges, we have no option but to hike menu prices."

A small Udupi restaurant owner in Madiwala said, "We require at least three cylinders a day, but currently we are hardly getting one. So, we increased prices by Rs 10 per plate across dishes to manage expenses. At some point, we can no longer absorb the burden, and this was the minimum hike possible."

Customers are already feeling the pinch. Dakshinya P, a resident of Mahadevapura, said, "I usually eat at a place near my office. The chicken biryani there used to cost Rs 150 per plate, but now it's Rs 180. When I asked them why, they said it's because of LPG prices."

Subramanya Holla, president of the Bangalore Hotel Association, said, "Typically, prices may go up anywhere between 3% and 10%, though the exact extent is uncertain. Given the sharp rise in gas prices — nearly Rs 400 in the past month — it's certain there will be at least a 3% increase. Additionally, some commodities like edible oil and pulses have also become costlier, which may or may not further impact the hike."

He added the sector is currently operating at around 80% capacity, with many hotels unable to function fully due to high gas costs. "While guidelines say hotels cannot levy separate LPG or service charges, there are differing views within the industry on implementation," he said.

However, larger establishments indicated that price revisions are not entirely linked to the current crisis. Hemamalini Maiya, managing partner at Mavalli Tiffin Rooms, said, "Every year on April 1, we revise prices based on labour and market conditions. This year too, we have increased prices slightly due to labour costs and other factors, but it is not related to LPG issues."

Ananth Narayan, head of the NRAI Bengaluru chapter, said price hikes remain limited. "Most mid-sized and larger establishments have consciously absorbed these increases to avoid impacting customer demand," he said.

Industry estimates suggest that around 30% to 35% of LPG supply has been restored, with 10,000 to 15,000 cylinders being supplied daily in Bengaluru.

Auto LPG supply improves at pumps, but queues persist

IANS

LONG WAY TO GO: Autorickshaws lined up at a gas station in Bengaluru Saturday

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Bengaluru: The city's autorickshaw LPG crisis continued to affect drivers Saturday, though public sector fuel stations reported improved supplies and resumed operations.

Long queues of autorickshaws remained a common sight across Bengaluru, but drivers said the situation had eased slightly since Friday. "After waiting for half a day, I was able to get LPG filled from a station yesterday. Since I'm unsure about future availability, I have already filled 10 litres in advance," said Sagayaraja S, a driver.

Following an announcement by Indian Oil Corporation Limited on increasing Auto LPG supply, several public sector outlets that were shut Thursday have reopened. An Indian Oil station near the Regional Passport Office in Koramangala, which had remained closed earlier, was fully operational Saturday.

Prices have also eased marginally. Auto LPG, which was being sold at around Rs 95 per litre, was priced at Rs 89.5 at Indian Oil outlets Saturday. Similar rates were observed at Hindustan Petroleum stations.

Despite improved supply, queues continued to stretch for long distances. At a Hindustan Petroleum outlet on Hosur Road, lines ran for hundreds of metres, though they were moving steadily.

Notices that earlier read "No stock" have now been replaced with timings for fuel availability. "Stock is no longer the issue, but there is no relief from the queues," another driver pointed out.

In contrast, several private auto LPG stations remained shut. A station in BTM Layout was barricaded to prevent vehicles from lining up. "We haven't been functional since yesterday evening and don't know when the next stock will arrive. Our last selling price was Rs 95 per litre," a pump official said.

Another outlet near Banashankari Temple also remained closed, with locals saying it has not operated for the past five days.

Modi govt managing crisis well, says HDK

Union heavy industries and steel minister HD Kumaraswamy Saturday defended the Centre over the LPG supply situation, urging Congress not to politicise the issue.

Responding to criticism from Congress, the state JD(S) chief said India has not faced major disruptions in the supply of essential commodities compared to earlier crises.

He said the Narendra Modi govt at the Centre has been handling the situation efficiently and ensuring uninterrupted oil supply despite global challenges.

Targeting the Karnataka govt, Kumaraswamy accused Congress functionaries of criticising the Centre while imposing taxes on the fuels used by autorickshaw drivers.

He also alleged that the chief minister Siddaramaiah was trying to derive political mileage. He demanded a rollback of such taxes and called for a sixth guarantee for autorickshaw drivers in line with the state's existing welfare schemes.

He urged Siddaramaiah to respond to the concerns of the drivers facing shortages of CNG and LPG. "Auto drivers are demanding a monthly support of Rs 15,000 in Karnataka," the union minister said, asking the govt to consider their request. TNN

Veggie prices crash amid war & glut

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Bengaluru: Geopolitical tensions between Iran and Israel-US are beginning to impact Karnataka's agricultural markets, with prices of onions and other vegetables falling sharply and pushing farmers into distress.

At the Bengaluru APMC Yard, traders report a widening gap between supply and demand. Large volumes of produce are arriving daily, but buyer interest has weakened, leading to a steep drop in prices that were stable just weeks ago.

Onions, a major cash crop in north Karnataka and neighbouring states, have been among the worst hit. "Good-quality onions that earlier fetched between Rs 1,600 and Rs 2,000 per quintal are now selling at barely Rs 1,000-1,200, while medium and small varieties have seen even sharper declines," Uday Kumar, a wholesale onion and potato trader, said.

Farmers are now realising as little as Rs 3-6 per kg, making it difficult to recover input and transport costs. In some cases, traders said, the price of an empty gunny sack—around Rs 18-20—exceeds the value of the onions it holds, forcing farmers to offload the produce at throwaway rates.

According to KC Doreswamy, secretary of the APMC, multiple factors are behind the slump. "A shortage of commercial LPG cylinders has significantly affected the hotel and catering industry, a major bulk consumer of vegetables. With many establishments scaling down operations, procurement volumes have dropped drastically, he said.

He added that good harvests in states such as Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal have reduced interstate demand for Karnataka's produce, creating a glut in local markets. "There is excess produce and less demand," he said.

Tomato prices have also fallen sharply. "Tomatoes that sold at Rs 500-600 per 15 kg box earlier are now being auctioned at Rs 100-200," said Muniyappa Reddy, a trader at KR Market. Retail prices have dropped to around Rs 8-10 per kg.

Other vegetables, including beans, capsicum and carrots, have seen prices fall by nearly 50%, while brinjal, cabbage, beetroot, okra and potatoes are retailing at Rs 20-30 per kg.

Farmers from districts such as Koppal, Ballari and Vijayapura, as well as neighbouring states, are bearing the brunt. "The emotional and financial strain is evident at market yards, where several farmers are left with little choice but to sell at distress prices to avoid further losses," said P Govindharaj, a trader at Kalasipalya mandi.

TOI

SHARP FALL AT MARKETS

Vegetables	Current price	Mid-March price
Carrot	₹10-20	₹40
Beans	₹30	₹60
Capsicum	₹30	₹60
Brinjal & beetroot	₹10-15	₹30
Tomatoes (15 kg)	Up to ₹250	₹500-600

Price per kg | Source: KR Market traders

Good harvests in states such as Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal have reduced interstate demand for Karnataka's produce, creating a glut in local markets

"A shortage of commercial LPG cylinders has significantly affected the hotel and catering industry, a major bulk consumer of vegetables. With many establishments scaling down operations, procurement volumes have dropped drastically"
KC Doreswamy | SECRETARY, APMC

Number plate mandate not withdrawn: Transport dept

Bengaluru: The state transport department Saturday clarified that its previous order on mandatory installation of high security registration plates (HSRP) has not been withdrawn, dismissing viral claims on social media and some TV channels that motorists no longer required to replace old number plates.

The department said the ministry of road transport and highways had mandated HSRP for vehicles registered before April 1, 2019. In line with this directive, the state govt issued a notification on Sept 17, 2023, making the installation of HSRP compulsory.

The matter has reached the high court which has directed the state not to take any further precipitate steps or decisions regarding the fixation of HSRP plates. TNN

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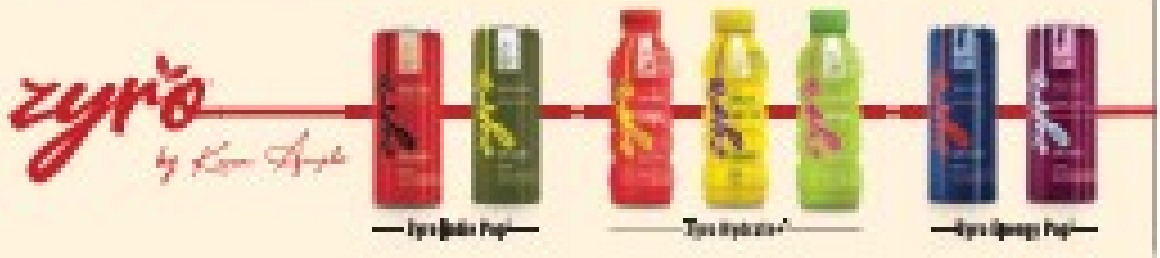
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Cancer claim denial backfires: Forum asks insurer to pay ₹5L to senior citizen

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Bengaluru: A senior citizen's health insurance claim for cancer treatment was denied, leading to a prolonged dispute. The II additional Bengaluru Urban district consumer disputes redressal commission has now held the insurer guilty of deficiency in service, and ordered it to reimburse the expenses with interest and compensation, totalling almost Rs 5 lakh.

The saga began on April 1, 2023, when Manjula Chandranth Sumathi, a 70-year-old resident of Banashankari I Stage, purchased a health insurance policy from Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd, declaring pre-existing conditions of diabetes and hypertension. She paid Rs 45,825 (including tax) for a Rs 10 lakh cover, valid till March 31, 2024. The policy was renewed on March 12, 2024, for the period from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, on payment of the same premium.

But in May 2024, Manjula developed a lump in her right breast and, on medical advice, was admitted to Excel Care Hospital on July 7, 2024. She underwent treatment for breast cancer as an inpatient from July 7 to July 9.

She paid almost Rs 3 lakh towards the hospital's final bill and an additional Rs 2 lakh towards pharmacy, bed, and other charges.

On July 22, her daughter and nominee, Swetha Sumathi, 39, approached the insurer's Jayanagar branch seeking reimbursement. The insurer issued a query letter dated July 27, followed by a communication on Aug 22 seeking documents, all of which were submitted. However, in two days, the claim was repudiated, alleging non-disclosure of past illness, and a subsequent notice was issued proposing cancellation of the policy.

Manjula contended that the rejection was unjustified and amounted to deficiency in service, particularly as no pre-policy medical examination was conducted despite her being a senior citizen. Despite paying all premiums and submitting documents for her breast cancer claim, she faced repeated delays and repudiation. Frustrated, she filed a consumer complaint on Nov 18, 2024, seeking reimbursement of medical expenses.

In its defence, Star Health and Allied Insurance Company alleged that Manjula had suppressed material facts by disclosing only diabetes and hypertension, while failing to reveal a serious pre-existing cardiac condition. It relied on medical records, including a discharge summary from Apollo Hospital, to state that she was hospitalised and had a known case of inferior wall myocardial infarction, having undergone PTCA/angioplasty in Jan 2021, along with conditions like ischaemic heart disease and obesity. The insurer argued that such non-disclosure of a life-threatening ailment prior to policy inception amounted to material misrepresentation.

The commission observed that the prior cardiac condition had no nexus with the breast cancer treatment and that no medical tests were conducted before issuing the policy, despite the complainant being a senior citizen. It concluded that the repudiation of claim amounted to deficiency in service.

On March 5, 2026, the consumer forum ordered the insurance company to restore the policy and pay Rs 4.5 lakh with 9% interest, aside from paying Rs 20,000 for mental agony and Rs 10,000 as litigation costs.

COMPANY CLAIMS MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATION

AI

- **APRIL 1, 2023:** Manjula Chandranth Sumathi, 70, buys a health insurance from Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd, paying a premium of ₹45,825 (including tax) for a ₹10 lakh cover
- **MAY 2024:** Manjula gets diagnosed with breast cancer
- **JULY 7 TO JULY 9, 2024:** She undergoes treatment as inpatient, costing almost Rs 5 lakh
- **JULY 22, 2024:** Her daughter and nominee, Swetha Sumathi, 39, approaches the insurer's Jayanagar branch, seeking reimbursement
- **AUG 22, 2024:** The insurer seeks documents, all of which were submitted. But the claim is repudiated in two days, alleging non-disclosure of past illness, and a subsequent notice gets issued proposing cancellation of the policy
- **NOV 18, 2024:** Manjula files a consumer complaint. The insurance company alleges that Manjula had suppressed facts by disclosing only diabetes and hypertension, and failing to reveal a pre-existing cardiac condition
- **MARCH 5, 2026:** The commission observes prior cardiac condition has no nexus with the breast cancer treatment and that no medical tests were conducted before issuing the policy, despite the complainant being a senior citizen. It orders the company to pay Rs 4.5 lakh with 9% interest

Auto land conversion fuels renewable push

Green Signal For 1.9k Applications Covering 4.4k Acres

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Bengaluru: The state govt's move to introduce automated land conversion is beginning to show results, with nearly 1,900 applications covering over 4,427 acres cleared for renewable energy projects since its rollout in Jan.

Revenue department officials said applicants have paid over Rs 15 crore in conversion fees, signalling strong investor interest. Tumakuru district has emerged as the frontrunner with 692 acres converted, followed closely by Gadag with 686 acres.

Northern districts are leading the adoption of the system. Gadag and Bidar together account for around 25% of the total auto-converted land, covering over 1,100 acres. Other districts include Koppal with 342 acres, Vijayanagara (333 acres), Kalaburagi (244 acres) and Raichur (221 acres).

For investors, the key change is speed. The new system has removed paperwork and in-person approvals, cutting down delays that were earlier a major concern. Rajender Kumar Kataria, additional chief secretary of the revenue department, said, "Earlier, there were complaints about delays in conversion, and industrialists were showing interest in investing in neighbouring states. With the simplification of the process, Karnataka is now more attractive for investors. We are the first state in the country to adopt auto-conversion, and other states, including Maharashtra, are showing interest in replicating this model."

The system, introduced on Jan 27, has seen steady uptake. Between then and April 2, the department received 1,893 applications, all of which have availed conversion under the new system.

Officials said the faster clearances are expected to help renewable energy projects take off quicker, improving the state's appeal as an investment destination.

Module for non-master plan areas goes live

The revenue department has expanded its push for faster land approvals by launching a new conversion module for areas outside the master plan. Introduced on March 31, the system has already cleared 630 pending cases that had received initial deputy commissioner approval and completed payments but were awaiting final clearance. With auto-conversion now enabled, orders have been issued in all these cases.

Officials said the new module is designed to cut delays that applicants often face at the final stage of approvals. It ensures that once payments are made, conversion orders are generated automatically without further procedural holdups.

Data from the department shows that 2,795 cases have crossed the 30-day limit for processing. Of these, 1,736 cases have already been auto-pushed for payment. The remaining 1,059 cases will also move to the next stage if no decision is taken within five days. Officials said the system allows auto-approval and automatic issuance of orders after payment, reducing dependency on manual intervention and speeding up the overall process for applicants.

Pic for representation

FASTER AND SEAMLESS: The new module ensures that once payments are made, conversion orders are generated automatically without further procedural holdups

> With the simplification of the process, Karnataka is now more attractive for investors. We are the first state in the country to adopt auto-conversion, and other states, including Maharashtra, are showing interest in replicating this model
> **Rajender Kumar Kataria** | ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, REVENUE DEPARTMENT

LEADERS IN ADOPTION

Tumakuru	Extent (in acres) 692
Gadag	686
Bidar	441
Koppal	342
Vijayanagara	333

Tankers deployed as 324 villages face water crisis

Times News Network

Bengaluru: With the onset of summer, drinking water scarcity has been reported at 324 villages in Karnataka, prompting the state govt to step up supply through tankers and private borewells.

Seasonal drying of water sources and reduced borewell yield have contributed to the situation. Karnataka has 26,676 villages across 31 districts, covering over 1 crore households.

SUMMER WOES

Rural development and panchayat raj minister Priyank Kharge said water is being supplied to 76 villages through as many tankers, while 248 villages are receiving water by leasing 280 private borewells. To meet immediate requirements, Rs 60 crore has been allocated. An additional Rs 48 crore has been released to clear pending bills for works undertaken under the task force in March. Another Rs 14.5 crore has been earmarked for the repair of water purification units. Officials at district, taluk and gram panchayat levels, including chief executive officers of zilla panchayats, are monitoring the situation and holding review meetings to ensure supply during the summer months. Priority is being given to preventing disruptions in rural drinking water access.

Water quality testing is carried out across villages and habitation areas using field testing kits. Samples with impurities exceeding permissible limits are being retested in laboratories, and alternative safe sources are being arranged in cases of confirmed contamination.

As per guidelines, priority is given to leasing private borewells, with tankers used where necessary. Measures such as flushing and deepening of borewells are also being undertaken, while new borewells will be drilled only in unavoidable cases based on geologist reports. In addition, 24/7 control rooms have been set up in zilla panchayats, and Rapid Task Forces have been formed at the taluk level to respond to issues.

DKS claims guarantees will ensure big win for Congress

Times News Network

Bagalkot/Davanagere: With four days left for campaigning to end ahead of the April 9 bypolls, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar Saturday said Congress is headed for a decisive win, driven by strong public response to the state govt's guarantee schemes.

He said the schemes — Shakti, Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyoti, Yuva Nidhi and Anna Bhagya — have resonated with voters. "Both Bagalkot and Davanagere South are very positive. Congress workers are doing an excellent job, going door to door and convincing people about the guarantee schemes," the state Congress president told media.

"People want the guarantees to continue as they are expressing difficulties due to rising prices," he said, adding, "There is a strong sense that we will win with a bigger margin than before."

Meanwhile, BJP MLC CT Ravi accused CM Siddaramaiah of being responsible for a major share of the state's Rs 8.3 lakh crore debt. He claimed over Rs 5 lakh crore had been accumulated in debt during Siddaramaiah's tenure, with borrowings at Rs 90,280 crore in 2023–24, Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2024–25, Rs 1.2 lakh crore in 2025–26 and Rs 1.3 lakh crore in 2026–27.

Ravi said nearly 60% of the borrowing in the past eight years was under Siddaramaiah, while previous chief ministers accounted for 40%. "Now tell me, is it not right to call you 'Saalada (debtor) Ramayya'?" he said.

Using Yatnal for poll campaign shows BJP's desperation: CM

Times News Network

Bagalkot: Chief minister **Siddaramaiah** Saturday said the BJP's decision to use expelled MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal in its campaign showed desperation and highlighted a lack of consistency.

"Instead of levelling baseless allegations, the BJP should present its achievements before the people," Siddaramaiah said at a press conference.

Referring to Yatnal's expulsion and subsequent return, the CM said, "They expelled Yatnal and then brought him back. Is there any principle or consistency in this? Politics should not descend to such a low level." He added Yatnal continues to criticise former CM BS Yediyurappa as well as BJP state president BY Vijayendra.

Siddaramaiah also rejected allegations by BJP leaders that the state budget favours Muslims. Responding to remarks by senior BJP leader CT Ravi, he said, "They have not read the budget."

Commenting on the BJP's campaign, Siddaramaiah said the opposition was acting out of apprehension over the outcome.

Govt approves ₹1-cr relief fund for sanitation workers

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The state govt has approved the creation of a dedicated fund to provide compensation to the families of sanitation workers who lost their lives while cleaning septic tanks, drains and manholes in rural areas, especially under the jurisdiction of gram panchayats.

According to a govt order issued recently, Rs 1 crore was allocated under the rural development and panchayat raj department to ensure the timely disbursal of compensation in such cases.

According to sources, the decision followed discussions held under the chairmanship of the social welfare minister last year, and subsequent recommendations from various departments. The move aimed to address challenges faced by gram panchayats in providing immediate relief to affected families.

Compensation amounts for deaths during hazardous sanitation work were enhanced to Rs 30 lakh from Rs 10 lakh. Additional provisions were also made for cases involving disabilities, with a minimum compensation of Rs 10 lakh and up to Rs 20 lakh in severe cases.

Lack of sufficient funds delayed compensation

The govt noted that in several gram panchayats, a lack of sufficient funds often delayed compensation payments. To address this, the newly created fund would be used where local bodies were unable to provide immediate financial assistance.

The allocation was made under a specific budget head of the RDPR department, ensuring that funds were readily available for emergency disbursal.

The initiative was aimed at strengthening support mechanisms for sanitation workers and ensuring that their families received timely financial assistance in case of fatalities or serious injuries during hazardous cleaning operations.

Facility to enable charging of 6 EVs simultaneously

▶ Continued from page 1

This will allow fast-charging option and enable charging of at least six vehicles simultaneously," the Bescom engineer further added.

Additional chief secretary (energy) Gaurav Gupta said the collaboration would strengthen Karnataka's EV ecosystem. "Collaborations such as these will help build a robust, accessible and reliable EV charging ecosystem to power Karnataka towards adopting clean and sustainable transportation," he added.

Allay people's fears with robust network

Energy minister K J George said the initiative addresses a key concern among EV buyers. "People were sceptical about buying EVs for long-distance travel. We are trying to allay these fears with a robust network of EV charging facilities."

He said 20 EV charging facilities have been planned at 10 toll plazas on the Bengaluru-Belagavi National Highway under PM E-drive scheme.

Students lock horns outside college, booked

Times News Network

Mangaluru: Police have initiated action against a group of students for engaging in a public brawl and disturbing the peace near a college within the Konaje police station's jurisdiction.

CAUGHT ON CAM

According to police, 10–15 students in uniform were involved in a physical fight outside a college gate around 1pm on April 1, at Nadupadavu in Kairangala village.

The students allegedly abused each other using foul language, creating a disturbance in a public place. The incident was recorded on a mobile phone by a bystander and later circulated on social media.

The students involved were from the degree and engineering sections. Police officials said appropriate action was taken against the students.

More vessels arrive at M'luru

Crude oil tanker 'Lila Jamnagar' with 2.7 lakh tonnes crude arrived at New Mangalore Port and is discharging crude at single mooring point (SPM). The vessel arrived from Zhoushan port in China.

LPG tanker 'Aurora' with 43,910 tonnes of LPG is now berthed at New Mangalore Port and is discharging the crude for Confidence Petroleum. LPG tanker 'Al Ain' with 23,000 tonnes of cargo has also arrived, said sources from New Mangalore Port. 'Jag Vasant' with 9,500 tonnes of LPG is awaited. TNN

DCF: Fluctuating mobile networks hindering search

▶ Continued from page 1

DCF (Madikeri) Abhishek said three additional teams posted at the Karnataka-Kerala border were also assigned to the search operation.

He said while the Tadiandamol peak has habitation on one side, the other side of Pattighat Reserve Forest is a dense forest where the teams were pressed into search operations for the trekker.

Fluctuating mobile networks in the area have made it difficult to accurately trace her last known location, which at one point appeared to be in Iritty in Kerala. "But this could be unreliable," he said.

ALMANAC (5.4.2026)

Meena Masa 22 Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Vasantha Ritu - Tithi: Chaitra Krishna Tritiya h. 12-00 Nakshatra: Visakha h. 24-08 Yoga: Vajra h. 14-44. 16 Shawwal Kali Day 1872670 Easter Sunday
Rahu Kalam 4.30-6pm
— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

13k industries & no effluent plant: Pollution risks mount at Peenya

Nithya.Mandyam@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Despite being one of Asia's largest industrial hubs, the Peenya Industrial Area continues to operate without a common effluent treatment plant (CETP), raising serious environmental and regulatory concerns more than five decades after it was set up. The area, according to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), generates approximately 1,458 kilolitres of wastewater daily.

Spread across nearly 1,800 acres, Peenya houses over 13,000 industries — most of them micro and small enterprises. The absence of a centralised waste treatment system threatens to undermine both its industrial viability and environmental sustainability, said a senior KSPCB official. "There is a lack of scientific disposal mechanisms for industrial effluents," he said.

Around 2,000 units in Peenya fall under the 'red' and 'yellow' pollution categories, including chemical processing, textile dyeing and pharmaceutical manufacturing. While about 20 large industrial clusters have in-house treatment systems, smaller units depend on tanker-based disposal to a private facility in Doddaballapur, incurring costs of Rs 8-10 per litre. The private facility has already indicated potential shutdown due to operational challenges.

In 2018-19, the then Congress-JD (S) coalition govt sanctioned Rs 10 crore to build a 200 KLD CETP on KSPCB land in Peenya. However, delays in execution meant the project never took off, and the funds were eventually returned to the govt — highlighting systemic inefficiencies in project implementation, said a senior KSPCB official

KSPCB chairman PM Narendraswamy said, "From an environmental standpoint, steps must be taken at the earliest to establish a CETP. Failing this, action will be initiated against those responsible."

Peenya Industries Association has renewed its demand for immediate govt intervention, urging the establishment of a CETP within Peenya itself. "Without providing any infrastructure, these KSPCB officials are blaming us... We need the support of GBA and govt to have our own CETP," said Shiva Kumar R, former president of the association.

Syed Asif

TOXIC TROUBLE: About 2,000 units in Peenya fall under 'red' and 'yellow' pollution categories, including chemical processing, textile dyeing and pharmaceutical manufacturing

> Alarmingly, improper disposal by smaller units has led to untreated effluents entering stormwater drains, contaminating nearby lakes and groundwater reserves — an issue that could have long-term ecological and public health consequences
> **— A senior GBA official**

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Gen Z pout: Nonchalant, yet intentional

What the pout is really saying

What is a Gen Z pout

Gen Z vs millennial pout: The difference

From fossil to fashion: Meet the T rex bag

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real estate

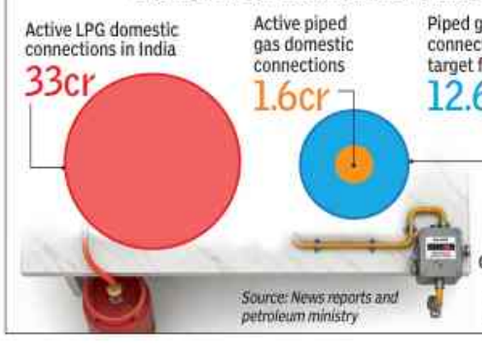
SOLUTIONS TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLES

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

11cr piped gas connections needed to meet 2032 target

While LPG still outnumbers piped gas connections in India, expansion targets signal a shift towards PNG. But, nearly 13 lakh PNG connections have to be added every month to meet the goal

Cooking fuel connections in households



Illegal opium cultivator electrocuted Satpura tiger after poisoning failed

P.Naveen@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: Satpura's rewilded tiger that died last month was electrocuted after the first attempt to kill it by poisoning failed, investigators have found.

Officials probing the case said the accused, linked to illegal opium cultivation inside forest land, first tried to poison the tiger by lacing a dead bull with urea. The big cat repeatedly fed on the carcass, but survived.

When the poisoning did not work, an electric wire trap was laid along the tiger's movement route. According to investigators, the big cat walked into the live wire around midnight on March 3. The timing of the electrocution has been corroborated through tripping records from a nearby power sub-station, which showed a fault at the same time. Postmortem findings have confirmed that the tiger suffered both poisoning and electrocution. The tiger, around four-and-half years old, was translocated from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve to Satpura Tiger Reserve on Dec 24, 2024, as part of a rewilding effort. It was released into the wild on Jan 1, 2025, after being fitted with a satellite radio collar equipped with a drop-off mechanism to track its movement without the need for recapture.

The collar stopped transmitting signals on March 3. Officials handling the system initially believed it could be due to possible satellite disruption. A search later led them to the decomposed carcass of the bull, which further raised suspicion. What drew attention was that both ears of the animal had been cut off, a deliberate move to remove identification tags and delay tracing the owner.

EC suspends Kol DCP, 3 others for trouble during Shah event

Roadshow Saw TMC-BJP Clash On Didi's Fief

Kaushik Pradhan & Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Central forces conduct a route march along Burrabazar, Kolkata, Saturday

Kolkata: The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday suspended four senior Kolkata police officers, including a DCP, and ordered disciplinary proceedings against them over their failure to maintain law and order during a roadshow of Union home minister Amit Shah in Kolkata's Bhowanipore on April 2. BJP's Suvendu Adhikari is pitted against CM Mamata Banerjee in the seat.

In the past fortnight since the model code of conduct (MCC) came into effect in Bengal, EC has suspended 17 officials. Saturday's suspensions were made on the recommendation of chief electoral officer (CEO) Manoj Agarwal. "... The directions of the commission are to be implemented with immediate effect, and a compliance report must be sent on April 5," EC said.

During Shah's roadshow culminating in Adhikari filing his nomination papers, the atmosphere had turned tense near Kalighat, close to Mamata's residence, where Trinamool workers assembled in large numbers and raised counter-slogans. Police prevented a full-blown confrontation and formed human barricades to keep the two sides apart. The fracas resulted in EC filing an FIR alleging MCC violations and claiming that while BJP had obtained permission for its rally, Trinamool had not.

Priyankar Chakraborty, one of those suspended, had been appointed Alipore OC by EC on March 29, the day it changed 31 Kolkata Police OCs, including that of Bhowanipore. Trinamool has twice approached EC for the transfer of Bhowanipore returning officer Surajit Roy. The party alleges Roy has a close association with Adhikari, having previously served as BDO of Nandigram, the BJP senior's home turf. The request remains unheeded so far.

BJP has approached Election Commission seeking the transfer of another DCP, Shantanu Sinha Biswas, and removal of two other officers. BJP claims the cops canvassed for Trinamool during a recent conference of a police welfare committee.

4 planning terror attacks nabbed in UP

Lucknow: Averting major terrorist attacks, UP's ATS has arrested four terror suspects planning coordinated attacks on railway facilities, vehicles transporting gas cylinders, police stations, and key govt institutions. Security has been tightened, with police and intelligence agencies conducting checks.

The accused were allegedly on the verge of executing a major attack in Lucknow when they were arrested. UP ATS has obtained a five-day remand of them until April 9.

ADG (law & order) Amitabh Yash said the module, led by Meerut-based Shakib, alias 'Devil', recruited Arbaab from his native village, while another associate, Aqib, currently hiding in Dubai, allegedly connected the group with handlers linked to Pakistan's ISI. TNN

Help pours in for MP women's team football coach Param

Ramendra.Singh @timesofindia.com

Bhopal: A day after **TOI** reported how he staked everything to take a ragtag team of underprivileged women footballers to Tier 2 of the elite Indian Women's League, offers of help came pouring in for Madhya Pradesh football coach Param Ashawar.

While the coach of District Raisen Football Club had borrowed Rs 10 lakh to support his wards in their quest to qualify for the national league, the monetary assurances he received on Saturday stood almost at Rs 15 lakh till the filing of this report.

The coach was swamped with phone calls from several individuals and firms pledging money in his support. The **TOI** report on Saturday, April 4, titled "Coach borrows Rs 10 lakh to fire up MP rural girls team for national women's football league", drew a wave of admiration for the coach and his supergirls, combined with commitments to generous donations. From a Kolkata industrialist, a Jaipur-based private firm to avowed football fans from Kerala to New Delhi, everyone volunteered to help the coach in his ambition to put women's football in the state on the national map.

TIMES IMPACT

A leading corporate house in Bhopal, too, promised free kits and boots, while the Jaipur firm offered to fund future training. "It's not just about the money, it's about believing in these girls," one of the donors told **TOI**. "An industrialist from Kolkata contacted me and offered to pay off my entire debt," coach Param told **TOI**. On the assurance from the Jaipur firm, the coach said, "They are willing to support me with Rs 5 lakh. I requested them to support my team instead, as I have already received offers to pay off my debts," Param added.

Clear example of intimidation voters face here: Oppn

▶ Continued from page 1

Molla was arrested Saturday over the alleged speech made in Canning's Deuli area. He is a gram panchayat chief and a senior Trinamool figure in the belt. His arrest followed a complaint with Election Commission (EC) by Arabul Islam, a candidate of local party ISF who cited the video as evidence. "This is a clear example of the intimidation voters face here," Arabul said. TMC candidate Baharul distanced himself from the remarks, saying the party did not support "any kind of threat, coercion or violence".

In Behrampore, TMC's Raju Mondal was arrested late Friday following a BJP complaint to EC. A video purportedly shows Mondal telling residents in Kantanagar to "vote only for TMC". "If any chaos is seen on polling day, stay at home. We will send sweets," he is heard saying in the purported clip. He was released later after signing an undertaking not to engage in such acts.

Mistry: Trust's 1923 deed bars non-Zoroastrians

▶ Continued from page 1

In a petition filed with the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner on Friday, Mistry argued that the trust's 1923 deed bars non-Zoroastrians and non-Mumbai residents from serving as trustees.

The current BHI trustees include Noel Tata, Jimmy Tata, Jehangir Jehangir, Darius Khambata and Vijay Singh. It remains unclear whether Singh, a former defence secretary, will reconsider his position. He declined to comment on Mistry's petition. Mistry has contended that both Srinivasan and Singh have "never been, and cannot be, of Parsi Zoroastrian faith" and lack permanent residence in Mumbai, thus disqualifying them under the 1923 deed.

He sought affidavits from all trustees affirming compliance with the eligibility criteria. If any trustees are found unqualified, the BHI board could fall below the required minimum five; the trust deed stipulates that the total number of trustees shall not exceed eight or be fewer than five. Srinivasan recently returned as chairman of Sundaram Clayton, a TVS group company, four years after stepping down, replacing R Gopalan, who continues on the board.

One of the smaller entities within Tata Trusts, BHI was created under the will of Sir Ratanji Tata, the younger son of Tata Group founder Jamsetji Tata. The trust owns properties in Navsari, Gujarat, including a fire temple and a school, and limits trusteeship to Parsis of the Zoroastrian faith.

Mistry has sought the appointment of an administrator in light of alleged "illegalities" in the trust's governance. He has submitted that no meetings were held at BHI "over the past two years, with no regard for the trust's beneficiaries or its charitable legacy".

Male NIT-Silchar student nabbed for roaming naked in women's hostel

BB Goswami | TNN

Silchar: A male MBA student of NIT, Silchar, was caught allegedly wandering naked in the women's hostel, triggering panic among residents and raising concerns over campus safety.

The student bypassed security check and gained access late Friday. He was seen moving through corridors and common areas in an "inappropriate state" while allegedly shouting threats, prompting students to raise alarm, sources said.

The situation quickly escalated, with hostel residents scrambling for safety before security personnel intervened and escorted him out. No physical injuries were reported.

Institute director Prof Dilip Kumar Baidya said an internal inquiry had been initiated to ascertain how the breach occurred despite recent changes to campus security protocol. He added the student appeared to be in an unstable state. "He looked like he was intoxicated or having a psychotic problem."

Sexual assault plaint: Police get 3-day custody of director Ranjith

Kochi: Director Ranjith was sent to police custody for interrogation and evidence collection for three days in connection with the sexual assault complaint filed by an actor.

The veteran director Ranjith, who was arrested on Tuesday night, was lodged at the Ernakulam sub jail. He was taken to the court from the sub jail at 10.45am.

The court considered his custody application and allowed it despite Ranjith's counsel opposing it.

His lawyer contended that the arrest was not according to procedures and pointed out that the director was facing health issues. Prosecution, however, emphasized that custodial interrogation was necessary and evidence collection needed to be done. TNN

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MANAGING DIRECTOR

HC orders probe into missing pen drive against Hry min

Chandigarh: Punjab and Haryana HC CJ has ordered a probe into the disappearance of a pen drive containing election-related videos pertaining to a petition filed by Congress' Karan Singh Dalal, challenging the election of Haryana minister Gaurav Gautam as MLA from Palwal in 2024, **reports Ajay Sura**. The drive allegedly disappeared from HC records. Information regarding the inquiry was provided before the bench of Justice Archana Puri on March 27. It was informed the inquiry officer posted in HC was probing into the alleged disappearance after receiving orders from the CJ and that the inquiry was still pending.

A phone call to victim's wife changed night's course: Cops

▶ Continued from page 1

A phone call to his wife shifted the night's course, police said. She first asked them to bring him home, then reacted angrily when told they had reached a locked house, questioning why they brought back her "drunkard husband". Investigators said the exchange led the students to believe the man was "unloved". Greed took over. Police said the trio allegedly decided to kill Bhojapure and keep his car, planning to change its number plate and colour. They allegedly drove to a deserted patch near a crematorium on Khadgaon Road in Wadi, dragged him out, and smashed his skull with stones. His body was stripped and dumped in bushes to hinder identification. The students fled with the car and two expensive mobile phones, police said.

Bhojapure's father Upasrao had filed a missing complaint. The body was found Friday morning. Crime branch teams, led by senior inspector Dnyaneshwar Bhedodkar under senior officers Vasant Pardeshi, Rahul Maknikar and Abhijit Patil, cracked the case within 12 hours. CCTV footage, technical surveillance and call records pointed to Aryan, who had contacted Bhojapure's wife. Picked up from a college campus in Nandanvan in east Nagpur, Aryan allegedly confessed. Bloodstains on a shoe undercut initial denials, police said. The others were rounded up soon after. All three have been charged with murder and remanded in police custody. Bhojapure's car was found near Anuj's home in Kalamna, an industrial area in the city's east.

Police said the motive jars: all three BTech students come from financially stable families. Kamble owns a bungalow in Beltarodi, a southern Nagpur locality. Aryan's father is a schoolteacher and his mother works with the municipal corporation.

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HC upholds order to grant boy's custody to 'better-placed' maternal grandparents

Lalmohan Patnaik | TNN

Cuttack: Orissa high court has upheld a Keonjhar family court order granting custody of a 13-year-old boy to his maternal grandparents, holding that the welfare of the child is paramount in deciding the matter.

The court dismissed an appeal filed in 2019 by the child's father and paternal grandparents, all three serving life terms for the dowry death of the child's mother.

Justice Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo upheld the family court order of Sept 2018, noting that the maternal grandfather, a 51-year-old lecturer, and the maternal grandmother, a 45-year-old homemaker, are in a stable and better position to care for the child, born on Dec 23, 2012. The child's mother died under unnatural circumstances on August 4, 2013.

The HC, however, granted liberty to the appellants to seek appropriate remedies for visitation and contact rights, observing that such pleas may be considered on their own merits in accordance with law.

Raj HC upholds cancellation of 2021 SI recruitment exam

Ashish.Mehta@timesofindia.com

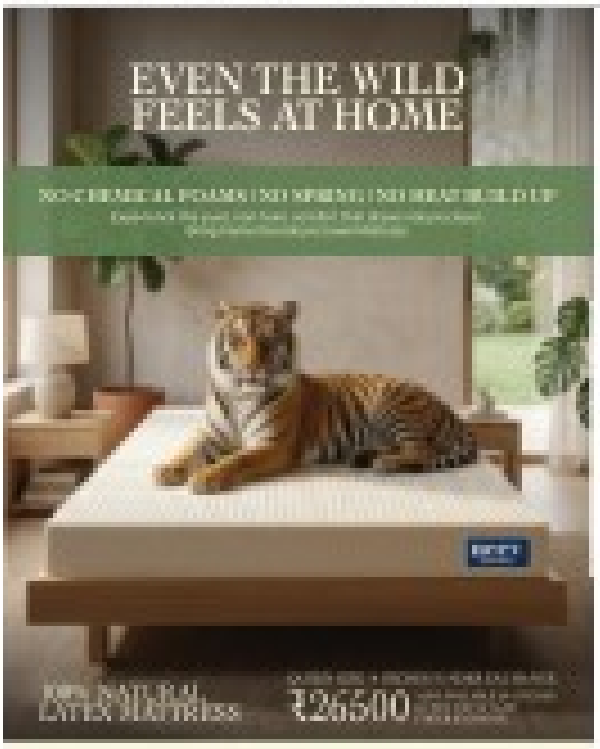
Jaipur: Rajasthan HC Saturday upheld the cancellation of 2021 sub-inspector recruitment exam, backing a single-bench ruling that scrapped the entire process over alleged paper leaks, malpractices and large-scale irregularities. A division bench dismissed appeals filed by the state govt and selected candidates, and upheld the Aug 28, 2025 judgment of Justice Sameer Jain.

Italy probes firms for pushing cosmetic sales to the minors

Home interiors

Cool comfort in hot summer

Give your home the ideal colour scheme and decor this season for a calming and peaceful effect. Here are some tips on how to do this



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SELLING/BUYING 50x80 40x60, 30x40 Resi/Commercial Properties HSR,BTM,JPN, JNR B'ghatta, BSK, B'gudi, KR.Rd BCMC,Narayan Ngr-7760019494

PLOT for Sale 60x39 PRIME Location Off Bannerghatta Road Bilekahalli Brokers Excuse Contact Naidu: 9844005311

BENSON TOWN

PENTHOUSE ready to move 4.5BHK, 5bathroom, 3balcony +terrace, 3500 Sqft, 5.5Cr @ Benson Town, 2km Cnngham. 8088330330 www.govianu.com

BROOKE FIELD

SALE- Running PG with monthly income Rs 2.5l-3L Site area:1200 sqft, Built-up area 5000 sqft, G+4 floors Price: 4.5cr 9880178659 / 9880178657

BTM LAYOUT

PRIME COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY FOR SALE
40X60 EAST FACING
BDA APPROVED
A KHATA
BTM LAYOUT

FOR SALE 40X60 E/F Walking Distence to Outer Ring Road Perfect for Business, Rental Income Contact: 6364003399

CUNNINGHAM ROAD

4BHK 3Balcony, 1unit/ floor, 3200Sft High end Flats Govianu Cunningham, 100mtr frm Cunningham Rd, Last 1unit avlb. 8088330330, www.govianu.com

DEVANAHALLI

₹3750/-Sqft
DEVANAHALLI
SITES FOR SALE
BIAAPA
PROPERTY WORLD
BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS
9740589739 / 9731308328

DEVANAHALLI Approved Sites for sale near International Airport Size 2400, 4000sqft. 9740589739/ 97313088328

FARM HOUSE
21780 Sqft (½ Acre)
For SALE (Proposed)
₹1950/- Sqft
DEVANAHALLI
PROPERTY WORLD
BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS
9731308328 / 9743395619

FARM HOUSE with Compound wall, Gate, Plantation Etc. Near International Airport 9731308328/ 9743395619

½ Acre Convrt Land for Sale – Devanahalli. Clear titles, ideal location. Serious buyers call 9845226033

DEVANAHALLI GODREJ RESERVE PLOT FOR SALE 3000 SQFT. WEST FACING CONTACT- RAVINDRANTH - 9916686663

DODDABALLAPUR ROAD

DODDABALLAPURA Circle Main Road Very Close By STRR Road 1 Acre 8 Guntas Land Sale Broker's Pls Excuse Call: 98456 23970/ 97394 00838

WANT for outright purchase 2 - 3 acres commercial/industrial land. Min 40 ft road reqd. contact 9972455500

DOLLARS COLONY

3BHK, 2000 SQFT Luxury High end Flat for Sale, DOLLARS COLONY. For details Contact: 8088330330. www.govianu.com

HBR LAYOUT

HIGH RETURNS Property Enarch North West HBR(BDA) 5th Blk stilt + 3Bhk flats- 4 no's Newly built ready to occupy Nr Manyata tech park & Ring rd. Call : 98450-07163 / 99723-70494

HEBBAL

SPACIOUS 5000 Sqft 4 BHK furnished Villa with exclusive elevator available for rent in Godrej-17, Hebbal, 3 Car park & Servant Ph: 9880223669

66*77 COMMERCIAL SITE

ON HEBBAL Ring Road Near Lumbini Gardens. For Details Call Shivanssh From Niti Estates 9900001973

HEBBAL Flyover Near Esteem Mall & Presidency College 50x63 Site Sale Payment Fully white Broker's Excuse: 98456 23970/ 97394 00838

HENNUR

HENNUR
30X50 SITES
FOR SALE 12500/Sqft
PROPERTY WORLD
BUILDER & DEVELOPERS
9731308328 / 9743395619

1200 & 1500Sqft BBMP Resi Sites for Sale 12500/Sqft Property World Builders & Developers. 9731308328/ 9743395619

READY TO-MOVE 4BHK VILLAS For Sale @ Chikkagubbi Off Hennur Main Road , With All Amenities. CT : 9743325550.

SALE 4.5BHK Duplex Skyvilla @ Bhartiya City, Nikoo-2: off Hennur & Thanisandra Main Road. SBA 3,283 Sqft (UDS: 622 Sqft), Duplex Unit in 31st Floor Partially-Furnished, East Facing, 2 Covered Car Park, Courtyard Facing, currently Tenanted, World Class Amenities & part of Integrated Township with SEZ, Office, Malls, International School, Hospital and much more. Asking Price: 4.0 Crores Slightly Negotiable. Call: Mahesh Rajareddy, Cell # 8050521805

SITE for Sale 9300 sqft, North Facing, 10000/-psqft (Nego), Near Byrathi Suresh House, Doddaguddi Road, Prime location, 9448255072/ 9448492681

Fully operational - 70 seater
Fine Dine Restaurant for Sale
Hennur , Bengaluru.
50 lakhs (negotiable)
Call : 9964544267

HOSUR ROAD

WANTED
500 PG
Rooms/ 1BHKs
for 9-year
Rental For:
Pan-India
brand

IN ELECTRONIC City 1st Phase/ Near Software Offices Ready to Move in / Build-to-suit options. Call: 9980077897

HRBR LAYOUT

SALE: BDA 40x60 G+1, 4BHK East Facing Bungalow 2nd Blk, 40ft Road just near ORR@Rs 9.50 Cr, Full Chq-DD, 9880075949, 7026001122 BROKER's Excuse

INDIRA NAGAR

FLAT-FOR-SALE Nr 100 feet road 1700 sft 2.60cr & HAL 3rd stage 3 bhk Flat 1780 sft 1.60 cr GM Palaya 4BHK house for sale 2.70 cr. Call : 9448030205.

SALE 3 BHK Resale old flat 2 units on 1st and 2nd floor 1,650 sft built up area approx. Quoted price for Each flat Rs.2.25Cr Contact: 9845208012

HOUSE Sale - 2400 sqft North facing Old house for sale in Indiranagar. Price 40k per sqft & 22000 sqft Site for joint development.: 9353666603.

RENT !! Defence Colony, Indiranagar Exclusive 5 Bedroom Bungalow with Swimming Pool & Terrace Garden Site Area: 7000 sft Built-up Area: 8,000 sft with 8 car parks. Call FEROZE'S: 9845018800

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - AROUND

INTERNATIONAL Airport Road 7 Acres Land Sale & 3 Acres Land For Sale Broker's Excuse Contact: 98456 23970/ 97394 00838

JAKKUR

SADHWANIS 4 BHK apartment for sale in Jakkur lake facing 16Cr. Excellent location location location. Contact 9845070013

SALE 34X60 BDA 'A' KATHA EAST FACING 11,000/- NEGOTIABLE TELECOM LAYOUT JAKKUR CALL: 9972849555/ 9606178077

JAYANAGAR

BEAUTIFUL BUNGALOW
FOR RENT
@ JAYANAGAR
4BHK TRIPLEX
FULLY FURNISHED

INDEPENDENT Bungalow for Rent with 2-3 Carparking, Lift, Servant Room Rent 3L Nego Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756

FOR SALE
40x60
CORNER
PREMIUM
PROPERTY

IN JAYANAGAR 2nd Blk 40x60 Corner Property on 60ft Rd Prime Locn Genuine Buyers only Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756

JAYANAGAR 6th Block - Ready to Move Soon 2 BHK Flat is at Prime Residential Location for 1.20cr & 85 Lakhs. Contact : 9663235353

JAYANAGAR 3bhk 2100sft 3.25cr, All Amenities. G floor . N facing Newly built, not negotiale. Parasmani Regency 9844210133

LUXURY Newly Built 3BHK Apartment for Sale in Jayanagar near South End Circle, 2200 to 2500 Sqft Each Flat. Ct: 9945265049/ 9738302049.

JP NAGAR

Grand villa style entryway to Vastu aligned apartment with a balinese inspired gardens.
3 BHK starts from 1.45 Cr*

PRIVATE VARANDA Space, RERA APPROVED, with 60+ Amenities. 800 meters to Silk Institute metro, Kanakapura road & Nice Road, Ct: 9743859000

SALE
PRIME
COMMERCIAL
TENANTED UNIT
SINGLE FLOOR
4800 Sqft
@ J.P.NAGAR

URGENT SALE Prime Property @J.P.NGR @Rs 6.5Cr Rental income Rs 3.25L Serious Buyers Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756

SALE
40X60 W/F
SITE @
J.P.NAGAR
5th Phase

URGENT Sale Vacant Site 40ft Road Rs.18k/Sft 'Going Cheap' Prime Locn Serious buyers only Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756

FOR SALE: New Grand Duplex House in JP Nagar 8th Phase, EF - 4 Flrs 3600 Sqft Built Up Area with Lift and 2 Car Parking + Rentals 45K, Price: 2.77 Cr. Call: 91489 45717.

JP-NAGAR 7th PHASE 30X50 East Facing Old House, Jagruthi Colony, Puttenahalli Good Location. Contact: 9448045601/ 9535811626

JUDICIAL LAYOUT

4BHK, 4000 Sqft Luxury high end flats, Judicial layout gkvk, ONE Floor ONE Unit 100% floor FLAT Sale: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

KANAKAPURA ROAD

HOUSE FOR RENT
For Rent 2 BHK
Rs. 28000/- including maintenance, close to Forum South Mall, near Konanakunte Metro Station, Kumaran School

BUYING AND Selling of properties in and around Bangalore. only genuine Sellers/ Buyers Call: "Sri Ganesh Estate" 9845286505

APTMNT Sale 2BHK 1405Sqft Semi furn, Premier Gated Community, all Amenities, close to METRO Stn 1.18Crs Nego: 9845039097/ 8904777279

KASTURI NAGAR

INDEPENDENT 3BHK Bungalow for sale 2500 sft 60x40 site. East Facing. 100% Vaastu. Newly renovated. 5.2 Cr. Brokers excuse. "Prime" 9845079698

KENGERI

BBMP "A" KATHA SITES FOR SALE @KENGERI, 500 MTR FROM METRO STATION WITH CAUVERY WATER CL.9606342643 BROKER EXCL

KORAMANGALA

AVAILABLE FOR RENT
FULLY FURNISHED
70,000 SFT INDEPENDENT
COMMERCIAL BUILDING
with OC in Prime
KORAMANGALA.
Lift, Power Backup,
Ample Parking,
Plug-and-Play.

PERFECT FOR large corporates, tech companies, global capability centres, & institutional offices looking for a prestigious address. Direct Clients only, Brokers Excuse, Serious Enquiries,whats-App only: 87470 98848

FOR Sale Comm Buildings Budget upto 50 Cr and Resi 10,000 Sft property and also req comm plots and Buildings all over B'Lore M:81055-42424

COMMR-30X50 R'ntl Rturn Buildings.10.5/9/7CR. 80ft Rd 60x40/ 50x80. Resi-60x90 3rd Block. 30x40/ 60x40 5&6&7& 4th Block 20/ 30/ 50 Cr. 98452-89386.

KR PURAM

FOR RENT Kiadb 3rd phase Malur in 1.5 acre sheds 10000+5000 sft + office 2500 sft + worker & security. Power 200hp. Contact 9845037777

KUMARA PARK

60'x75' FOR SALE
NEAR JAIN MANDIR
MADHAVNAGAR
KUMARA-PARK
APARTMENT BUILDERS
NRI's / INVESTORS
98450 54356 / 99800 77447

LANDS-PROPERTIES BUYERS & SELLERS CONTACT: RAGHAV @ BANGALORE ESTATES: 98450 54356 / 99800 77447

KUMARASWAMY LAYOUT

4BHK for rental in kumaraswamy layout Dayananda sagar College Road for office/Bank/Residential purpose M: 9663477722

Kumaraswamy Lyt Sale
40x60 PG fully furnished
49 Rooms Single Tenent
Rent 5L. Rs 8.75cr Nego.
Call Shivu: 98800 04149.

MAGADI ROAD

FOR SALE
Total Area 4600 sft.
Build up 4000 sft.
Monthly Rent
Rs. 40,000
Call 96866 76169
Owner 91108 11503

MAHADESHWAR NAGAR Magadi Road, Near Oxbridge College Sunkadakatte, Bengaluru. (Suitable for Builder)

3BHK, Luxury High End Flats Sale, Govindarajnagar Magadi Rd, Next to Royal Enfield shrw, OC received Last 2 units only. 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MALLESHWARAM

3 BHK flat for rent at 17 Cross, Malleswaram between 4th and 6th main with covered car park, rent Rs 45000 pm and Maintenance Rs 3000 pm. Contact 9900151524

COMMERCIAL property available for sale near Sampige Road. East-facing plot, ideal for office. For inquiries, contact: +91 90197 03775.

MARATHAHALLI

PRESTIGE Green Gables 3BHK 1600 sft 3.10Cr. with 2T 1405 sft 2.50Cr. 2 BHK 1111sft 2.20Cr. For Rent also Available Settler: 9880225333 / 9845035333

DC converted A Khatha 5100 sq ft. 2km from ORR Marathahalli sale/JD sites also available Rs. 7000/- 7022249932

MATHIKERE

1900SQFT, Luxury High-end Flat with swimming pool, club house, in HMT ROAD 60 Feet Road. Call: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MG ROAD & AROUND

For Sale
EV Two
Wheeler
Show Room

OCCUPANCY IN Sri Balaji Motors EV Showroom @ Kamraj Road Bangalore contact - 9980797111/ 7483357234

SADHWANIS 2BHK Apartment with car park for Sale at Lavelle Road, Excellent Location Location Location, Ready to Move, Rs.3Cr, Ct: 9845070013

SADHWANIS 3 BHK apartment for Sale off Magrath Road 4Cr. Excellent location location location Contact: 9845070013

SALE: Off Queens Road Residential Site 2800 Sft Facing North. Contact: "IRSHADS"- 99456-31500/ 77608-73505

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

WANTED Sites, Flats, House, Land in Indiranagar, HAL 1st, 2nd & 3rd Stage Domalur, Old Airport Road Banaswadi Saroundings Call: 93425 60839

SITES & Lux Apts with CC/ OC at Indiranagar, BTM, BSK Temple Rd, Hennur, Marathahalli, Soukya Road, Whitefield, Hoskote 9986090661 / 9036601934

MURGESHPALYA

WIND_TUNNEL_ROAD SALE Plot with Old House, 44.4x30 feet, A&E Katha, West, Good Location for House/ PG/ investment. M : 7022334447 / 48

NAGARBHAVI

3BHK FLAT for sale Near Nagarabhavi BDA Complex, Annapurneshari layout, 93 lakh. Call 9980941666, 9036905565

NAGAWARA

MANYATHA RESIDENCY
NAGWARA
PREMIUM BDA PLOT
45x60- 2700 Sqft.
FOR SALE
KP Realty
7899930039

@ RS.22K/SQFT. Park Facing Plot Available for Sale. Behind MANYATA TECH PARK. CONTACT KP REALTY – 7899330039

NANDIDURGA ROAD

2550 sqft
East Facing
Plot for Sale
@
Nandi Durga
Road
Jayamahal Extn.

46X55 EAST facing posh locality, Near Coffeday good for Residential, Villa or Bungalow. Call Prime Properties 9594985128

NELMANGALA

9000SQFT Commercial Vacant corner Site for Rent Nelamangala Town Sondekoppa Main Road. Call: Ravindrababu 80730 82929

OMBR LAYOUT

BDA Plot For Sale, Corner Site OMBR Layout, Total Area 6125Sqft East Facing, 5th Main Road, 60 Feet Main Road. Contact: 9986071243, 7090594594

OMBR LYT 2BHK Flat for sale Ready to Move kitchen cabinet & Wardrobe vasthu E aasthi done. Near Sky line apt. 1 car parking 81.9L, Ph: 9632296279

50X80 SITE FOR SALE OMBR LAYOUT SEMI COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE NORTH FACING CONTACT: 8971212800

RAJAJI NAGAR

PURVA BLUBELLE Adjacent to Magadi Road Metro station RAJAJI-NAGAR 3 BHK & Exclusive 5 BHK Flats + Servant Room with all luxurious Amenities, Only few units left for Sale Call Owner : 9844027560.

SALE
PRIME PROPERTY
Rajajinagar 1st Blk,
20th Main Rd, Blr-10
Site measuring
45x90:4050 Sq.Ft.

BDA ALLOTTED Property | West Facing | Approx. Built-up: 3800 Sq.Ft. | (Site Value Only) Located 350 m from Metro (6 mins walk) Clear Title. Serious buyers only Contact: 9886330265

3BHK, 2000 Sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, Rajajinagar main road near Navrang theatre. Phone 8088330330. www.govianu.com

RAJARAJESHWARI NAGAR

30*40/ 60*40 Land Required for Joint Venture In Bangalore Call for Details +91 75340 90909

RICHMOND TOWN

FOR SALE
OFFICE BUILDING
@ RICHMOND TOWN
Built-up Area:
15000 Sq. Ft
KP REALTY
8095963647

INDIVIDUAL OFFICE Building for Sale. Plot area : 3700 sqft. Built-up Area: 15000 sqft. (G+4 Flr) Cont - KP Realty – 80959 63647

RMV EXTENSION

SALE 50x90 4/ 5 BHK 2 Houses with lift, 4 Carpark, North facing, 27 crores Negotiable, Near RMV Club, Brokers Excuse. Contact. 9845004307

READY-TO-MOVE-IN 2&3 BHK Flats at Nagashettyhalli, RMV 2nd Stage,OC OBTAINED Call: 63623 77418

RT NAGAR

60*90 COMMERCIAL SITE

ON 80 Feet Road R.T.Nagar Near Nandini Hotel. For Details Call Shivanssh From Niti Estates 9900001973

R.T.NAGAR 80ft Road Commercial 60x90 Site Sale. 40x70 Comml 5 Floor's Building For Sale Broker's Pls Excuse Call: 9845623970/ 9739400838

SADASHIVA NAGAR

SADHWANIS 4BHK Apartment for sale in Sadashivnagar 10Cr Excellent location location location Contact 9845070013

SAHAKARA NAGAR

NEW FULL-APARTMT BLDG For Sale 7.50 Crs., 13,000 sqft - 9 Apt's (2 & 4 BHK's). Built-up on 2400 sft site, Ideal for Rentl. Incom, Service Apartments Corporate Guest House. 1.5 km from. Hebbal Flyover. Near SAHAKAR NAGAR. OWNER- 98800-53505.

SAHAKAR Nagar Main Road Commercial 30x60 Site Sale & Commercial 30x40 Site Sale Broker's Pls Excuse Call 98456 23970/ 97394 00838

SANJAY NAGAR

40*60 COMMERCIAL SITE

NEAR VAIBHAV Theatre Sanjaynagar On 60 Feet Road. For Details Call Shivanssh From Niti Estates 9900001973

SARJAPUR ROAD

SALE 3BHK Apartment @ Premier Inspira Maplewood on Sarjapur Road. SBA 1,753 Sqft (UDS: 504 Sqft), 4th Floor, "C"-Wing, Semi-Furnished w/ Modular Kitchen, North Facing Door, Vaastu Compliant, 1 Car Park in Basement. Excellent Amenities and nearby to SEZs, Malls, Hospitals, Wipro Head Office (9 Minutes). Un-Occupied, Ready to Move-In. Asking Price: 1.60 Crores Slightly Negotiable. Call: Parathasarathy, Cell # 9740450900

SARJAPURA Road 7.5 Acres Res. Converted Land Sale & Wanted 10-100 Acres Land J.D / Sale Chikkabellapura Devanhalli Hoskote: 9916763727

SESHADRIPURAM

3BHK & 4BHK Luxury High-end Flats for Sale at Seshadripuram, 5min from Mantri Mall, Call: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

SHANTI NAGAR

FOR SALE
LUXURIOUS

3 BHK FLATS
SHANTHI NAGAR.
2 km from M.G Road
2 km from Cubbon Park
READY TO MOVE
@ Rs.9800/-Per Sqft
AMENITIES
Swimming Pool, Health Club, Parking, Community Hall, Jain Temple.
Bank Loan Available.
Call-9845000439

VARTHUR

VARTHUR - Commercial site - sale; (west face) 2660sft Halasalahalli & Vagdevi School Mn Rd, Nr Nirvigna Convention Centre. 9480035582

VIJAYA NAGAR

40X60 WEST FACING SITE FOR SALE NEAR ATTIGUPPE METRO STATION, VIJAYNAGAR CONTACT: SATISH - 9535252060

INDEPENDENT House 3BHK, 40*50/2000Sft, South East Corner, Near Sobha Hospital,Off Pategarpalya Main Road.99868 64000

VISVESWARAIAH LAYOUT

SITES AVAILABLE & WANTED
Vishweshwaraih Layout
20x30 BDA Sites 2nd Block
Near Kammagatta Lake.
30x40, 40x60 SF 1st Block
Kempegowda Layout:
30x40 West Facing 7th Block
D-sector Arkavathi Alternate
BDA Sites Immediate Sale

WANTED: RESIDENT /Comercial Visveswaraiah kempegowda,Nagarbhavi Any dimension BDA sites. Owners Call: 9845143579

WANTED / AVAILABLE
20x30, 30x40,
40x60, 50x80
STIES @

VISVESWARAIAH Lyt BSK 6th Stg, Kempegowda Lyt, Nagarabhavi, ITI Lyt, Vidhanasouda Lyt. Immediate Registrn: 9845488488

FOR SALE
40x60 W/F
Premium Site @
VISHVESHWARAIAH
LAYOUT
6th Blk, 60Ft Road

URGENT SALE 40x60 Site Prime Location Rs14k/Sft Brokers Excuse Serious Buyers Only Call "GOLDLINE" 98450 33756

WHITEFIELD

PRIME Residential Plot for sale Address - Krishvi Layout, Kundalahalli, near ITPL Whitefield. North East corner property Measuring - 61ft to North and 35ft to east - 2135 sqft, BBMP approved, Landmark - Close to Bridade tech park and Ryan international school are Walkable dist., Metro dist.- 5 Km, Price - 22,000/-Sqft neg., Call: Surendra shetty 9845568244, Shobha Kiran 9901009747.

SALE: A-KHATA Semi-Commrl G+2 Flr Building at Plot Value @ 4Cr, Rent 1 Lac PM, 40x60 ft (approx 2357sft) WF on 30ft Rd, Outer Circle Rd, Near Mayura Bakery 9880075949, 7026001122 BROKER's Excuse

✔ ONE ACRE LAND FOR SALE ECC ROAD, WHITEFIELD. Road-facing. DIM 64×71×61×62 m. FAR 2.25 Existing old houses. Outright sale. WhatsApp Only: +916366641890.

PRESTIGE Elm Park, 3.5 Bhk for Sale at 30 Lakhs below the market price, Higher floor, Corner unit, Price 2.70cr. Contact 9535643424

YELAHANKA

YELAHANKA - South West Corner site 40*40, 25*40, 20*40 BBMP Limit E khatha, Behind Euro School, Kogilu Main Road, Rs.6250/- per Sqfeet, Mob : 9742834275, 9900789192

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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YESHWANTHPUR

SALE, Yelahanka New Town, 2 BHK Flat EF 55 lac 3 BHK triplex 4th phase 1.25cr 30x40 NF site Judicial 21K/Sft.,30x36 EF house B Sector 18k/ Sft : 9886818563/9342866213.

TENANTED Properties Imm -ediate Rent Yielding Invest 1Cr Earn 65 K Per M, Invest 50L Earn 32.5 K/M, Invest 25 L Earn 16.25 K/M Ct: 95381 88399

SALE : 3BHK,Ground floor at Renaissance Aero, Jakkur ,1,453 sq. ft., west-facing 1 Car Park. CALL 9448314766/ 8951457766

YESHWANTHPUR

3BHK, 1500sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, OC received, in YESHWANTPUR, please Contact: 8088330330 www.govianu.com

ESTATE & PROPERTIES

INVESTMENT
PLOTS
NANDI HILLS

Secure your future with high-growth Land Investment near Nandi Hills. Strategically located Plots in a rapidly developing corridor with strong Price appreciation. Ideal to build weekend, homestays, and hospitality income models. Close to upcoming Infrastructure, Tourism Growth Zones, and Premium Developments.

Buy Today
Benefit Tomorrow
Multiply long term

Call
99020 59909

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

FOR sale Independent Bunglow 2000 sft built up on BDA 4280 sft site, opp to Anjenya tmpl mahalakshmi layout...Bangalore.. 13 cr slight negotiations. Contact 7204453791.between 12 noon and 5 pm ..brokers excuse..

CORNER South East 40x72 site in gated community for sale near Karle township, Manyatha Tech Park, Hebbal. Contact owner 9845128550

FOR sale Running Hospital 25,000 Sqft in Bangalore South For more details contact- 8073023848

MYSORE

MYSORE MUDA SITE 50x80 SALE @ Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase Mysore. Price Rs.9200 Psft WhatsApp: 86189 42729

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

CHIKMAGALUR

DUPLEX Villa with assured rental 1lakh per month for Sale part of 5 Star upcoming resort in Chikamagalur. Call 8088330330

MYSORE

3BHK High-end Luxury Flats, Govianu Gurikar Luxuria - Mysore, Zoo road, opposite to Gandhi park, Ready to occupy, 8088330330, www.govianu.com

TUMKUR

A) 15000SQFT TUDA approved site, Jaganathpura Tumkur B) 1200 SQFT TUDA site Belagumba Tumkur, near NH4. Call: 8088330330

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

FOR RENT
JC ROAD
1st Cross Sgn
Layout
9980828090 / 9845017001

3000SQFT GROUND Flr And 2000 Sqft Mezzanine Flr Available For Rent @ JC Rd, 1st Cross Sgn Layout Bangalore-27

FOR RENT
PRIME OFFICE SPACE
HSR Sector-4
3500 Sqft
Fully Furnished
(Sound Proof Building)

2ND FLR All Amenities Ready Plug & Play, A/c, 40 workstation 3Cabins, One Conference,Car &2wheeler Parking. Call: 98453 93515

KORAMANGALA
OFFICE SPACE
FOR RENT
10,000 Sq.ft

FULLY FURNISHED Office | 180 Seats | OC Building Fully AC • Lift • Power backup • Cafeteria • Car parking 98450 57375

KORMANGALA 5th block Commercial building for Rent, 4 floors 10000 Sqft basement parking with lift 100 kv power, cauvery water and borewell. Rent 150 Rs Per Sqft slightly nego preferable single tenant. Contact. Pradeep 98450 59625

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale at Yelahanka, with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3000 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space sale 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3200sqft, Yeshwanthpur nr Kia showrm, one flr one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space sale at Sahakarnagar, tenant paying 2.5L per flr, 2500 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

FOR RENT / SALE
FULLY
FURNISHED
OFFICE 3rd Floor
ON OLD AIRPORT ROAD
VDB TOUCHDOWN
Next to HAL Museum
7447 Sqft
96 Workstations
3 Meeting Rooms
1 MD Cabin || 5 Cabins
1 Board || 1 Cafetoria
6 Car Parks
NO PHONE CALLS
WHATSAPP MESSAGE ONLY TO
98450 31550

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

FOR SALE
8000 sqft
KIADB Industrial
Plot with
Existing Building,
6000 sqft

100 KVA BESCOM Power & All KIADB Approvals. @ MTR Road, Bommasandra Jigani Link Road, Near Hebbagodi & Bommasandra Metro Station. Genuine Buyers Can Contact : 9036690352

More TIMES interact ads on subsequent pages...

PRIME PROPERTY

It is never too late to be what you might have been - George Eliot

The Lively vs Baldoni showdown

Sexual harassment claims dismissed; case heads to trial in May

Background

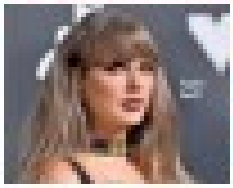
Lively's allegations

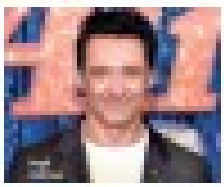
Baldoni's defence

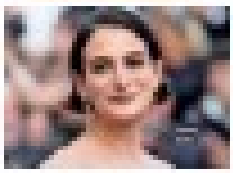
Why the sexual harassment claims were dismissed

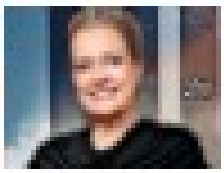
Legal back-and-forth

A-list celebs associated with the case





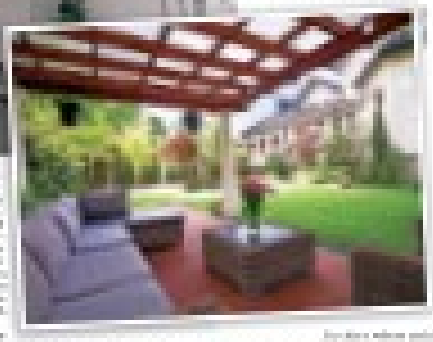




Home interiors

With homeowners becoming more design-sensitive and climate-aware, roof design is emerging as a major architectural feature

THE FIFTH FAÇADE



POINTS TO NOTE BEFORE DESIGNING A ROOF

Honouring Women Authors

SPOTLIGHT

Row 1 (L-R): Narayani Basu, Likla Lall, Prachi Digamber Bhusare, Saanvi Shabeesh; Row 2 (L-R): Dipankar Mukherjee, Subi Taba, Swati Pandey, Astha Gill, Sangeeta Mukherjee, Kavery Nambisan, Nina Sabnani, AS Mehta, HP Singhania, Jaya Bhattacharji Rose, Kabir Bedi, Sudeep Nagarkar, Smita Misra, Zai Whitaker, Velly Thevar, Urmila Pawar, Surabhi Rawat, Amrita Shah, Ravikant Kisana, Vasudhendra, Preeti Shenoy, Kiran Manral, Radha Kumar, and Neil D'Silva

VOICES OF CHANGE

The seventh season of AutHer Awards, presented by JK Paper in association with The Times of India, brought together voices that challenge societal norms and spark meaningful dialogue

L-R: Preeti Shenoy, Vasudhendra Shroff, Soha Ali Khan, Sudeep Nagarkar, Kiran Manral, Radha Kumar, Ravikant Kisana, Amrita Shah, Zai Whitaker, Nina Sabnani, Partha Biswas, and Neil D'Silva

Himanshi.Duseja@timesofindia.com

Women's writing extends beyond creative expression and acts as a powerful force of identity, resistance, and change. With the perennial challenges of patriarchy around, it is imperative to bring forth stories that challenge norms, inspire dialogue, and reflect the richness of women's lived experiences. JK Paper, in association with The Times of India, hosted the seventh season of AutHer Awards, honouring women who give voice to literary masterpieces. AutHer Awards empower the creativity of women authors in a world that has historically suppressed the female voice. The event witnessed over 3,000 entries this year, testifying to its commitment to recognising, celebrating, and amplifying women's voices across diverse literary genres. Over seven seasons, AutHer Awards has received over 12,000 entries.

Reiterating the novelty of female expression, Jaya Bhattacharji Rose, literary director, AutHer Awards, said in the inaugural address, "From oral traditions whispered across generations to novels that challenge power structures, women writers have shaped how we see the world. Yet, for centuries, their voices have been minimised, diminished, or forced into the margins. But, despite these barriers, they have persisted. They write under pseudonyms, between household duties, before and after their professional commitments, in early hours of the morning or in stolen hours of the night."

L to R: Dipankar Mukherjee, Sangeeta Mukherjee, Saanvi Shabeesh, Kabir Bedi, HP Singhania, and A S Mehta

S Hussain Zaidi, Jaya Bhattacharji Rose, and Velly Thevar

The chief guest, actor, and author Kabir Bedi, further emphasised the importance of coming up with platforms to empower women. He said, "I salute the AutHer Awards for creating a platform that not only celebrates storytelling but also honours the voices of women who deserve to be heard. Today, we are not just recognising their work, we are acknowledging their impact. Awards like these tell the writers that their stories still matter, that someone is listening, that their words have the power to inspire, provoke thoughts, and bring about change."

Further, Harsh Pati Singhania, chairman and managing director, JK Paper, said, "Tonight, we celebrate women whose stories move hearts, challenge perspectives, and at times change the directions of the conversations of the society." He added, "Over time, today's event has evolved into much more than an award ceremony. Today, the AutHer Awards have become a year-round engagement with interactive author conversations in schools and colleges, and a growing podcast series that brings literature to audiences across platforms."

Partha Biswas, chief, sales and marketing, shared, "Paper remains a powerful medium for expression, and through AutHer Awards, women authors are empowered to share impactful stories that inspire change."

The award ceremony also featured a fireside chat between authors Velly Thevar and S Hussain Zaidi, moderated by Jaya Bhattacharji Rose. The discussion brought about interesting insights into the co-authoring experience of the non-fiction crime book *Mafia Queens of India*, which came out last year. Thoughtful choices are shaped by the rigour and insight of those with deep experience. The jury's dedication and meticulous evaluation ensured that the most deserving voices stood out from a vast pool of entries. The AutHer Awards 2026 jury brought together some of the most respected names in the literary world. "AutHer Awards has become a credible platform, with the Manuscript category spotlighting young storytellers and their impact. This year's 14-year-old winner is a powerful testament to that," added Debasish Ganguly, head, marketing and communications. The winning manuscripts are published by JK Paper in collaboration with Readomania.

THE JURY'S DEDICATION AND METICULOUS EVALUATION ENSURED THAT THE MOST DESERVING VOICES STOOD OUT FROM A VAST POOL OF ENTRIES

Preeti Shenoy, Forbes-listed author and columnist; Soha Ali Khan, actor, author, producer, and the face of AutHer Awards Season 7; and Vasudhendra, Kannada writer, constituted the jury for the Debut category. Kiran Manral, author, journalist, podcaster, and curator; Manju Kapur, author, Commonwealth Writers' Prize winner; and Sudeep Nagarkar, author and Forbes India Celebrity longlistee, served on the jury for the Fiction category. Dr Radha Kumar, historian, author on democracy and feminism, and former Jammu and Kashmir interlocutor; Amrita Shah, former editor of Elle and Debonair, and award-winning author; and Ravikant Kisana, author, academic, podcaster, and performer, were the panellists for the Non-fiction category. The jury for children's literature comprised Zai Whitaker, conservationist, and author; Nina Sabnani, animator, illustrator, and winner of the Big Little Book Award; and Neil D'Silva, pioneer of Indian folklore horror, former Bram Stoker Awards Jury Chair, TEDx speaker, and co-founder of Litventure. "Literary craft is important, and a good story has to be important, but the story must continue after the last page of the book," said Soha Ali Khan, during the interactive session conducted with the jury members.

Soha Ali Khan, the face of AutHer Awards

Urmila Pawar was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for her extraordinary contribution to the industry. Addressing the audience, she said, "I would like to thank all the women who inspired me, especially Maitreyi Pawar, who translated my Marathi literature into English and Anita Bharti, who translated them into Hindi. On this occasion, I am happy to say that in the early days of Dalit literature, there were very few women writers alongside me, but today their number has grown significantly."

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from president and director A S Mehta. He said, "Numerous entries, rewarding books, written by talented writers, and the jury's thoughtful evaluation and dedication ensure that the AutHer Awards continue to hold the highest literacy standards."

JK PAPER presents AUTHER awards — Enriching lives — in association with THE TIMES OF INDIA

SEASON 7

WINNERS' LIST

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
- Urmila Pawar

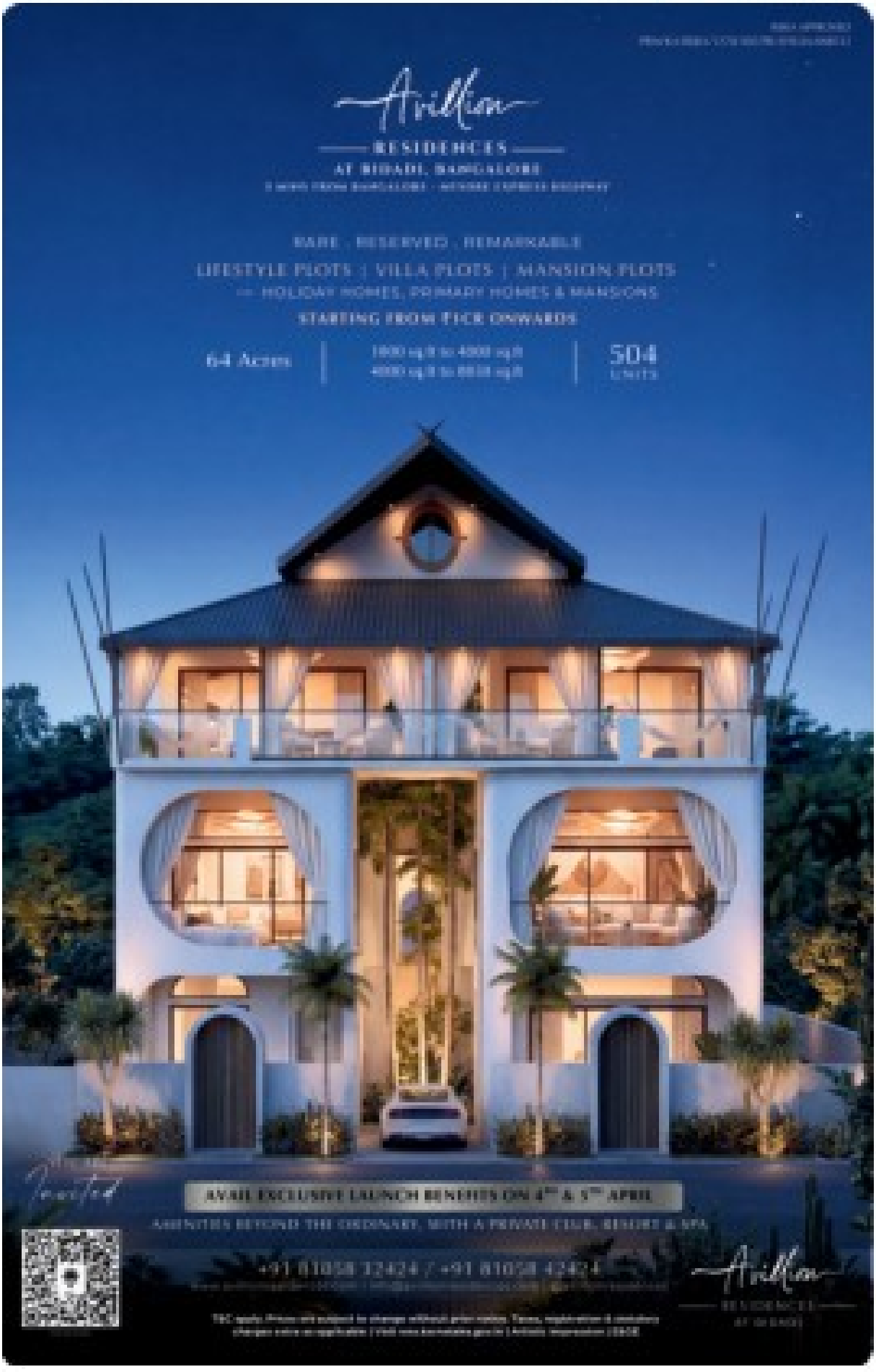
BEST AUTHOR FICTION
- Kavery Nambisan for *Rising Sons* (Penguin Random House India)

BEST AUTHOR NON-FICTION
- Vidya Rajan for *Rubber* (Westland Books)
- Narayani Basu for *A Man For All Seasons* (Westland Books)

BEST AUTHOR DEBUT
- Swati Pandey for *Invisible in Plain Sight: Voices from the By-Lanes of Kamathipura* (Juggernaut Books)
- Subi Taba for *Tales from the Dawn-Lit Mountains* (Penguin Random House India)

BEST AUTHOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
- Likla Lall for *Ganesh Haloi: Colours of Home* (Art1st & KNMA)

BEST MANUSCRIPT WINNER
- Winner: Saanvi Shabeesh for *City of Doom*
- Runner-up: Prachi Digamber Bhusare for *The Unknown Rescue*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File No. HO/Civil/T&E-E-5263/01/2025 8513 Dt.25.03.2026

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.

Bid Identification No. Civil/EST/49/2025-26

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. **Name of the Work**: Construction of Swimming Pool at the District Headquarters of Rayagada, Odisha
2. **Value of the Work**: Rs.2073.84 Lakhs (Approx.)
3. **Period of completion**: 18 (eighteen) Calendar Months
4. **Availability of tender online for Bidding**:
   I. Start Date: 18:00 Hours of dt.07.04.2026
   II. End date: 17:00 Hours of dt.28.04.2026
   III. Opening date: 11.30 Hours of dt.29.04.2026

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Civil)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0002

13001/28/2627

Cuttack Development Authority
Arunodaya Bhawan, Link Road, Cuttack-12
Fax No - 0671-2312299
email-cda.cuttack@nic.in

Notice No: 4580 Date: 30.03.2026

Tender Notice for Development of Baimundi Park at Cuttack

Brief Description of the process: Cuttack Development Authority (CDA) invites Tender for Development of Baimundi Park at Cuttack.

The applicants are requested to make themselves aware of the site conditions and eligibility criteria mentioned in the DTCN before participating in the process. The DTCN can only be downloaded from **https://tenders odisha.gov.in** and the last date of submission of application in prescribed format and required documents by Dt. **28.04.2026** till 15:00 Hrs. C.D.A. Any amendments/addendum/corrigendum shall only be posted in the tender Portal. Cuttack Development Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any application(s) and to annul the selection process at any time, without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereof.

For any assistance/ clarification in this regard, the prospective applicants may contact the Executive Engineer on 8456866531 during office hours.

Sd/-
Vice Chairman
OIPR-13001/13037/1/26-27/0007

Government of Karnataka

TOWN MUNICIPLE COUNCIL BANKAPUR

E-mail : ka.bankapura.tmc@gmail.com Phone No : 08378-25123

Ref:TMCB/ES/SFCSPCL/CR/2025-26 DATE : 01-04-2026

E-Procurement Tender Notification

The Chief officer, Town Municiple council Bankapur Haveri District invites e-tenders for the following Work Indents Under SFC Special Grant 2022-23 and 2024-25. Interested Contractor can apply the tender with proper documents from the E-procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

(1) The Last Date and Time for receipet of Tender : **30/04/2026** Time:05:30 PM (2) The Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **02/05/2026** Time: 11:00 AM

SL No.	Indent Number	Estimated cost (Rs. Lakhs)	Tender Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	EMD Amount	Class of contractor	Time Period	Category
SFC Special Grant 2022-23							
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55401	**315.00**	**266.47**	**400000.00**	2nd class	11 months	Others
2	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55413	**385.00**	**308.39**	**463000.00**	2nd class	11 months	Others
SFC Special Grant 2024-25							
3	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56826	**305.42**	**251.89**	**400000.00**	2nd class	11 months	Others

Sd/- (Shrimathi. Mamat. S . Magi)
President, TMC Bankapur

Sd/- (Shivanand K Ajjanavar)
Chief Officer, TMC Bankapur

DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/22/2026-27

25001/4/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF
RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

Unit-IV, Sachivalay Marg
Bhubaneshwar-751001
Fax.0674-2394705
E-mail: cerw_bbsr@yahoo.com

Letter No. 11563 Date. 30-03-2026

1st corrigendum

Bid Identification No - Online - 04/2025-26 (Bridges) invited vide this office letter No 9221, dated 17.03.2026.

Partial modification has been made to the TCN of Bid Identification No -Online-04/2025-26 (Bridges) invited vide this office letter no. 9221, dated 17.03.2026 for the bridge works due to unavoidable circumstances.

Sl No	Item	Time schedule as per original TCN	Time schedule as per corrigendum notice
1	Availability of Tender online for bidding	31.03.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 16.04.2026 up to 05.00 PM	10.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 27.04.2026 up to 05.00 PM
2	Last Date and time of seeking tender clarification if any	15.04.2026 up to 02.00 PM	24.04.2026 up to 02.00 PM
3	Date & time of opening of technical bid	17.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	28.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Buildings & Bridges)
Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-25001/25001/1/26-27/0001

34001/5/2627

e-mail ID- supongor_rbjyp@yahoo.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.J.C (R&B) - 18/2025-26

No. 2696 Date. 30.03.2026

1.	Nature of the work	: **BUILDING WORK**
2.	Total No. of Works	: 01 (One) No.
3.	Tender cost	: Rs. **1.79 Crs.**
4.	Period of completion	: 10 (Ten) Calendar Months.
5.	Cost of Bid Document	: Rs. 10,000/-
6.	Bid Security (EMD)	: **Rs. 1.79 Lacs** as per column no. 06 of IFB.
7.	Class of Contractor	: **"B" & "A"** Class as per Cl no. 05 of TCN & according to Financial Eligibility.
8.	Date & time of availability of bid Document in the portal	: from 12:00 hours of 09.04.2026 to 17:00 hours of 23.04.2026
9.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the Portal	: 17:00 hours of 23.04.2026
10.	Opening date of Bid	: 11:00 hours of 24.04.2026
11.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: **Chief Construction Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore**

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in
Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore
OIPR-34001/34108/1/26-27/0001

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Eligibility:
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ENGINEERS

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GENERAL

HIRING 2D CAD drafter interior designer (Residential). Proficient in AutoCAD, sketch up, 3D, Adobe, detailed 2D construction drawings. Work from home. Salary upto 1 lac pm. Mail to ns2894@outlook.com

URGENT REQUIREMENT 2-3 yrs DIP ELECTICAL TECH, 2-3years Exp MATERIAL PLANNING ENGINEER-SHEET METAL, BE & DIPLOMA MECH Freshers for Jigani, Dabaspete, Harohalli. Ct: +91 9739947194/ 9845320832

GET NOTICED

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANJALIKA BHATTACHARYA, D/o. Ashish Bhattacharya, residing at No. 10, Renaissance Nature Walk, Kodigehalli Main Road, Ayappanagara, Bengaluru-560036, have changed my name to ANUJ BHATTACHARYA, vide affidavit dated 01.04.2026, sworn before notary C.V Earappa, Bengaluru.

I, SURENDRAN BHASKARAN S/o BHASKARAN R/o Site No 26/27, Subhash Nagar, Singasandra, Bangalore 68 have changed my name from ATTUPURATH BHASKARAN SURENDRAN / SURENDRAN A B to SURENDRAN BHASKARAN for all future purposes.

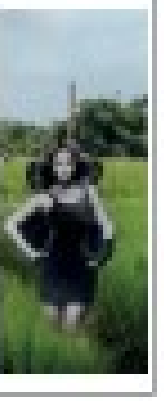
I, Vanacia, residing at Bengaluru, declare that "Vanacia" refers to the same person known as "Vanacia A" and "Vanacia Arun" for all official purposes

'For me, Easter is about emotional, spiritual renewal'

Pink elephant row: PETA urges artist to pull the artwork

WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

'Chilli-dusted gold fingers' leaves Bengaluru diner baffled



Amul

CHOCOLATE CHARGERS

Dark Frostik
70 mL / ₹40*

Dark Chocobar
60 mL / ₹20*

Chocolate Gold Tricone
120 mL / ₹50*

Dark Chocolate Tricone
120 mL / ₹45*

Cookie Sub
80 mL / ₹30*

Chocolate Brownie
125 mL / ₹35*

Choco Maltino
125 mL / ₹40*

Sandwich Gold Chocolate Brownie
80 mL / ₹40*

*MRP (INCL. OF ALL TAXES)

Creative Visualisation.

BIG HITS

Belgian Chocolate Tricone
120 mL / ₹50*

Double Chocolate Tricone
120 mL / ₹40*

Chocobar Probiotic Gold
60 mL / ₹25*

Frostik Gold
70 mL / ₹45*

EPIC Choco Almond Gold
80 mL / ₹100*

Sandwich Gold Chocolate Brownie
80 mL / ₹40*

Sundae Chocolate
125 mL / ₹35*

Black Forest Cake
500 mL / ₹350*

Chocochips
1 L / ₹230*

Tiramisu Gold
1 L / ₹350*

FAN FAVOURITES

Sugar Free Vanilla With Choco Sauce
125 mL / ₹40*

Creme Rich Caramel
125 mL / ₹50*

Protein Ice Cream Bar
60 mL / ₹160*

EPIC Strawberry Twist Gold
80 mL / ₹100*

Bitter Chocolate Tricone
100 mL / ₹35*

Coffee Gold Tricone
120 mL / ₹40*

Chocolate Brownie
1 L / ₹230*

Choco Crackle
1 L / ₹250*

Caramel Chocolate Gold
1 L / ₹260*

Cake Magic Dark Chocolate
750 mL / ₹290*

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Bangalore Times

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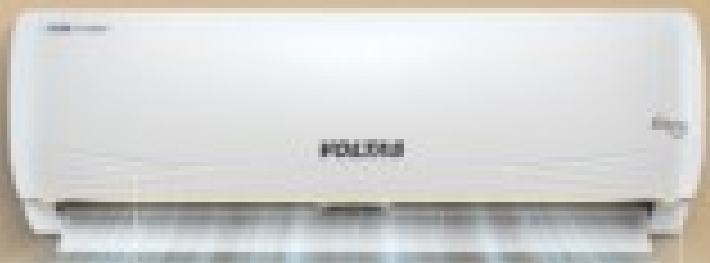

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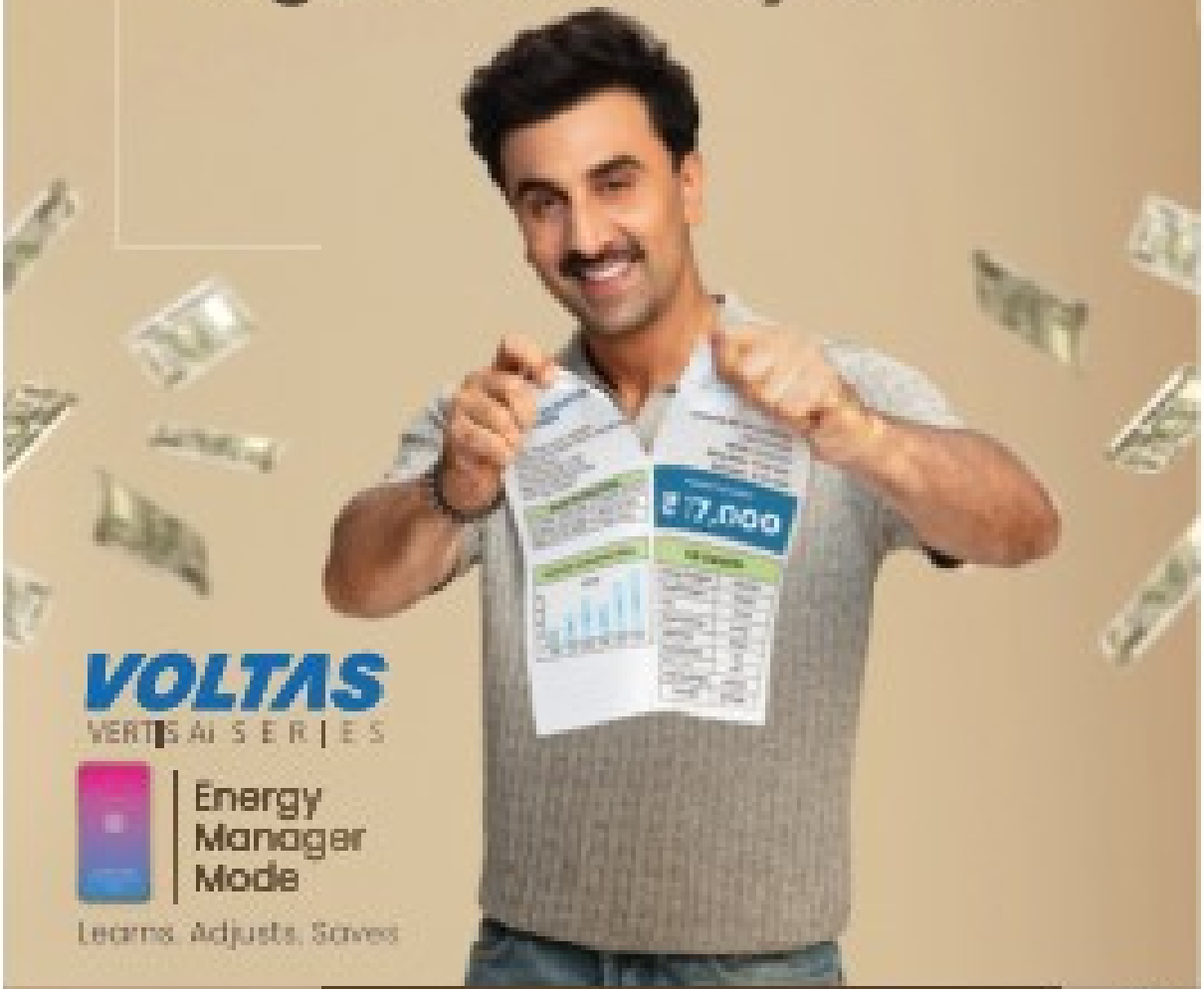

VOLTAS
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ISRO, IAM study how astronauts cope with pressure at 3,500m

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In the thin, biting air of Leh, where oxygen is scarce and isolation is real, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) are turning their focus to a less visible part of spaceflight: Human behaviour.

Mission MITRA (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment), underway from April 8 in Ladakh, is designed to simulate the stresses astronauts face in space. "Crew safety and performance are the most critical elements of all human spaceflight missions," Isro said. At roughly 3,500 metres above sea level, Leh offers a natural analogue. "The environmental conditions of hypoxia, low temperature and isolation act as a natural analogue for spaceflight operations," the agency noted. Unlike rocket tests or hardware trials, MITRA examines how people respond under pressure. The study is being conducted jointly with the IAM, which brings expertise in aerospace physiology and psychology.

"The ability of crew to communicate effectively, adapt to stress, maintain psychological resilience and support one another determines the success and safety of any mission," Isro said.

Participants are being assessed on multiple fronts: Physiological adaptation to altitude, psychological resilience, and operational decision-making. The goal is to map "team inter-operability between crew and ground control teams and effectiveness of decision making under environmental and operational stress," according to the agency. Mission logistics and facility management are being handled by Bengaluru-based Protoplanet Pvt Ltd, reflecting the growing role of private players in India's space ecosystem.

Analogue missions like MITRA allow researchers to observe real human responses without leaving Earth. For India, this is among the first structured efforts focused on team dynamics in extreme conditions. The findings are expected to feed directly into the Gaganyaan programme. "The scientific data generated on crew performance and human factors will contribute directly to the Gaganyaan programme and future long-duration missions," Isro said. However, Isro and private players that have conducted analogue missions in the past haven't publicly discussed their findings, leaving no scope for professional peer review of claims.

Some stones carry no end date, just one word: 'Forever'

▸ Continued from page 1

One stone calls a dog "a beloved daughter" who brought "immense happiness and a lifetime of memories". Another reads: "Run free, my baby." Some epitaphs tie loss to sacred time. One dog died on Guru Purnima in 2025. Another on Akshaya Tritiya. Some stones carry no end date. Just one word: "Forever".

Grocery wholesaler Jonnada Raghuram from Lawson's Bay Colony — a residential area just south of the beachfront — was there on a weekend to "meet" Snoopy, his dog of eight years. "We treated him like our own child, alongside our two sons. Our family visits his resting place from time to time to remember him," he said, brushing sand off the headstone. In MVP Colony — a bustling residential neighbourhood northwest of beach road — pet supplies shop owner Karri Kiran sees this bond daily. "The care pet owners show makes it clear how deeply attached they are. They choose best food, worry over smallest discomfort, celebrate little moments," he said.

Grief comes at a price. Building a memorial can cost between Rs 20,000 and Rs 50,000, depending on size and material. Families return on birthdays, death anniversaries — or simply drop by to keep memory alive, sweeping away sand that drifts in from the nearby shore.

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WANTED BRIDES

MATRIMONIALS
WANTED BRIDES
BY CASTE
AGARWAL-BISA

WANTED Bride : Suitable MATCH invited for a 40 year Handsome, Highly qualified Baniya Boy Hails from a reputed business family of UP. The candidate is amicably divorced. Seeking a Hindu girl (any cast) from a cultured background. Divorcee or widow without child are welcome to apply. Money No criteria. Please send biodata and recent photographs to: sanjeevalag2206@gmail.com

29/5'10" B.TECH- IIT MBA-IIM, wrkg with MNC 1 Cr + Fathr Indus. Caste no bar. No demand Aff. fmly #8120991552 Em: bdmatj@gmail.com

BRAHMIN

B.TECH Fair Telugu Brahmin 1983 born/183cm Singapore MN Bank seeks Telugu/Tamil Brahmin girls Graduates /Proff. Slim below 36y primarily willing to relocate wats app 9840108553 (parents)

USA-BASED, MS(Fin), 31/5'11", Sanadya Brahmin, well-settled professional, seeks well-educated, compatible girl, preferably USA-based or willing to relocate. Contact: 9425093237

VADAMAL Vaadulam Moolam-3 B.Tech (Mech) Insurance Loss Adjuster claims professional at Royal Sundaram Insurance, Chennai 75K PM 5'5", 85Kg. Ct : 97898 40829

NRI (Mumbai/UP) family seeks brahmin veg/ qualified/ beautiful/ tall/ fair/ slim girl for USA settled / 29/6.1', B.Tech/ MS/ MBA/ handsome boy. cont:+91 9930708494

ALLIANCE invited from girls of any State for our son B.Com MBA 1988 born /6'3" doing own business in Puducherry (Pondicherry) having good income. # 9894750160

KKB boy Gotra Upmanyu 34/5'8"M.Tech CS, wkg MNC Bangalore. Father Retd. Judge High Court. Preff. equivalent match. Family bsd Lucknow. WApp 8299594224

HASTHAM 1993 5'11" BE (Mech) Asst Manager Sales-MNC Chennai 14+lakhs /p.a seeks Any Brahmin bride Ct : 94449 55013, 94448 42300

IYER Vadama Barathwaja Ashwini 1995 B. Tech, MS Comp. science Soft ware Engr USA Boston 5'5" / 73 Expect Friendly girl Ct : 9962103512

1995 Vadamal Uthiradam-3 Makaram Kousigam BE, MS, (MBA) Robert Bosch- Czech Republic 24 Lakhs 5.7,66kg Ct :9444085247,9381151525

1987 Smartha Vadammal Poosam Kaushika B.E(ECE) IT Co, Chennai 1.70L PM 5'10" Educated & Employed any brahmin girl Ct : 9443211200

1998 Iyer Vadamal Anusham Kousigam B.com (General) Glencore, Role- Compliance Salary 64kg, 5.6 Ft Expectations : Brahim only. Ct : 63745 43676

SMART garhwali BR 35/5'5" BE (Mech) & MA (London) Dir in MNC/ CTC 2.7Cr seeks PQ wrkg girl at London. Fathr Retd Col. # BHP 9599838827

WANTED BRIDE
For Fair, Handsome Brahmin Boy, Born 1991, 5'8". MBA from prestigious Stanford University (USA), BTech (CSE) from NIT (Double Gold Medalist). Rich Affluent Nuclear Business Family of IITians and IIMians from Bhopal, MP.
Mob.: 9399820743
dr.sharma1141@gmail.com

KAYASTHA

SAX 41 /174 Handsome fair reputed family class one civil servant seeks b'ful tall qualified homely girl of reputed family. Very short marriage annulled. Upper caste no bar. Mob 8953598276, 7376499879 Mail ddks47@gmail.com

MATCH for Kayasth boy ,09 Jan1989,10.05 PM Lucknow, 5'9" B Sc Economics (US), M Sc Finance (UK), Working in Mumbai, Whatsapp biodata / Call 9311547833/ 8005001398.

BHATNAGAR boy 30/5'6" M Tech from IIT BHU seeking beautiful girl from reputed family contact 9425113269, 9243935856

DR. Saxena 30/5'9" NM H'some BDS, MDS Orthodontics 12 LPA w'stld seeks w'edu. Father Rtd. Cl-1 officer Caste no bar. 8989449232, 9098528054

PQSM4 Delhi based Mathur Boy, May96, 5'10", BTech/MS(CS), Working in Noida. Contact-8320550967

KHATRI

BRIDE WANTED
Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri High Status, Well Established Computer Engg. (MIT), MBA (XLRI, Jamshedpur), very Handsome, very Fair, Clean Shaven, Convent Educated, Non Manglik Boy 35/6'0" having own Real Estates and Power Generation business (High rental income) in Jamshedpur. Looking for Punjabi girl of reputed family. No Dowry will be Accepted.
CONTACT : 6207121650
BBjamshedpur@gmail.com

KSHATRIYA

EDU Bride 4 H'some Bihari (HYD well Stld) 2nd M, Rajput 41/5'11" MBA well paid BDMgr MAXHUB HYD, Biodata @9490425761.

SAINI

BTECH IT professional, Nov93/6feet from Rajasthan Manager MNC above25LPA Seeking Educated family-oriented girl Ph:9828317724

TAMIL IYER

1997 Palakkad Iyer Vadama Koundaniyam Thiruvonam M.Tech Working as "Algorithmic Engineer" in Continental Automotive ,full-time employee- Bangalore 84K Ct ::9495396944, 6282267504

SANKRUTI, Tanjore Tamil Iyer Vadama 1993, Krithigai-4, 5'11" 80kg BE (Mech. Engg) MBA BITS, Pilani Asst. Director BIG-4 @ Bangalore 36L PA. Ct : 9789165190

VADAMAL, Koundinyam, Iyer, Punarpoosam, 32, 5'7" BE MBA,Data Scientist, Seeking well qualified, working, Iyer girl,decent family.Ct:9952951269

BHARADWAJAM Chithirai Thulam,Age 33,Bcom CFA part 2. US MNC Bank Chennai 80000 pm only child own house. Mother only alive. 99414 66140

IYER Vadama 96 Kasyaba Uthrattathi 5'9" 60kgs Vice President with an American MNC B.Com, CA 15 Lacs PA seeks Graduate. Ct: 7299942530

VAISH

SUITABLE Match for Gupta Boy, Engineering Graduate from USA, Dec. 98/5'9" Director in well established family business of Real estate and education in Bhpl. em: sunilgupta191167@gmail.com (m) 9425301535

BY COMMUNITY
RAJPUT

LODHI Rajput boy 5'11" 4/1/98 fair B.Tech bangalore based (home city Lucknow) working in MNC ctc 18LPA.seeks beautiful B.tech /MBA working girl.contact no 8960380664.

BY PROFESSION
DOCTORS

SM4 Doctor-(DM), 5'10", 33 years, Veg, Teetotaler, well setld, Indore based, Doctor family, short duration mutual divorce, no issue, seeking cultured, prof qualified bride. M-9827029899

30, Chennai based General surgery Doctor Employed seeks Hindu Doctor Bride from broad minded. Educated family with Traditional Values.63822 63314

32 Chennai based Radiologist employed seeks Muslim doctor bride from broad minded educated family Ct: 9384895855

GOVERNMENT/ DEFENCE

DEFENCE Classl Officer,Sheikh-Siddiqui boy 28/5'8",Father National Highway Classl Officer,Sister Commercial Pilot,Lucknow based#9450447406

BY RELIGION
CHRISTIAN

WANTED Christian God fearing girl preferably PG in medical for 5ft 7" MDS handsome boy 29 yr reputed family in Jabalpur Con : sandeep_2011@rediffmail.com 7692800306

HINDU

LOOKING for a educated, slim and fair Hindu bride, with a minimum height of 5'3", maximum age 38, preferably settled in US and from a good family for a Bengali, 39 years, 5'9", fair and slim, Scientist groom settled in US having permanent residency status. Please call us at 8591138208 or email with CV to mail id roy.asim@icloud.com

SEEKING Bride for NRI,Handsome,35,5'9",Reddy, Affluent family. REQ: Girl working in Australia. con: 7396279292, 8639232860

MUSLIM

WANTED beautiful doctor PG/PG going for sunni Mch Uro doctor boy from well settled dini doctors family mob 9589035183.

Soulmate Premium
WANTED BRIDE

Name: Satvik Rao
Age: 23
Place of Birth: Mumbai
Religion: Hindu
Languages: English, Hindi
Education: Graduate
Height: 180 cms

Satvik, based out of Mumbai, comes from a fast-paced professional world shaped by media, entertainment, and large-scale campaigns.

"It's not just about companionship but about aligning your lives"

With a natural inclination toward strategy and curated experiences, he's built a life that blends structure with creativity.

"I've always been drawn to spaces where ideas, people, and culture intersect," he shares.

When it comes to relationships, Satvik is clear about what he values. "I'm looking for someone who is emotionally aware and independent, but who also understands the value of a partnership."

Talking about compatibility, he adds, "I think the best relationships are where both people bring something unique to the table. I value curiosity, emotional maturity, and someone who enjoys both structure and spontaneity—building something meaningful together while also enjoying the in-between moments."

So, what does marriage mean to him?

"I see it as a long-term partnership built on mutual respect and shared goals. It's not just about companionship, it's about aligning your lives in a way that allows both people to grow while creating something stable together," he explains.

Talking about family, he shares, "I'm open to the idea of kids and believe family is something that evolves over time. For me, it's about creating a stable, supportive environment where everyone can grow, individually and together."

This OR that?
Mountains or Beaches: Beaches
Tea or Coffee: Coffee
House parties or Clubbing: Clubbing
Movies or Books: Movies
Joint family or nuclear family: Nuclear (with strong family connections)

Looking for...
A girl who is grounded yet ambitious, self-aware, and emotionally intelligent. Someone who has individuality, a good sense of humour, and open-minded.

Interested in knowing Satvik better? Write to him at satvikrao@yahoo.com

GENERAL
CASTE NO BAR

PQM4 H'some Brahmin Boy ,BTech, MBA ISB, 31Yr, 5'10", Teetotaler Non Smoking,CTC 40 LPA, w'king Gurugram. 7060884999,7060761485.

MCA+MBA, Punjabi-Hindu, 41/5'8 never married. Wkg in BLR MNC 45 LPA. Seeks non-manglik educated girl. #9810157842

ALLIANCE invited for Mr.Vinay Murthy, BE, 37 Yrs, Self Employed, S/o.T D Murthy, Retd Sr.Exe, BHEL, Bhopal. Looking for a suitable bride. Caste and Religion No bar. Contact:9425604412

SM4 Del NCR based Nov 87/5'7", BA, LLB, LLM In-house Counsel in top MNC 25 plus lpa seeks b'ful well educated,W'app profile with pics 7838416665

PQM for Ph Khatri NM boy Dec91/5'6" 7.5LPA MBA Working Admin Gurgaon. Caste no bar. #9899242416, lakshayahuja05@gmail.com

SM for NRI (SC) boy/ 40/ 5'11"/ S/w engg/ separated/ soft & family oriented Parents retd. govt ser. Priority for Hindi belt. Caste no bar. M 9696211153

ASSAMESE Hindu Boy 38 yrs, MCA wkg with Top MNC abroad looking for an edu Assamese girl.Caste No Bar +919864372798, +919957148710

SECOND MARRIAGE

GRADUATE H'Some May'86 5'11"/Divorcee Garg boy/ own Bs'nss/ Good Income, Seeks B'ful, Edu culture bride. Call: 9899066394

RELIGION NO BAR

38/5'9" Unmarried Boy Caste No Bar Btech-MBA IIM, Working MNC 40LPA Business family Accept Div & Widow. 9407932961,7587736854

BY LANGUAGE
BENGALI

A well settled Bengali Boy(Rudraj Brmn), Engr(CSE), 28yrs 5'8" working in a reputed IT Co B'lore, also pursuing MS(IIT-IIM) seeking alliance from a well educated cultured wrk girl. Contact: 9409839255

BENGALI CA boy , Sept'81/ 5'8", Wkg in MNC Bank London, UK citizen, seeks Prof Qual wrking girl, min 5'3", within 40, +91-8904823096, subjaya2026@gmail.com .

WANTED issueless divorcee Bengali homely bride for Hyderabad based Bengali SADGOP 49/5'5" MBA, groom is Lecturer in college. Ph. 6305884748

MALAYALI

1995 Brahmin Iyer Vadamal Thiruvonam Kousikam B.Tech (IT) 5'10 " pref. Vadamal girl age 3-5yrs diff. from Kerala Iyer family Ct : 9447976756

PUNJABI

PUNJABI Khatri Boy 34 yrs 175 cms BE working in L&T chennai, earning 45 LPA looking for punjabi/hindi bride. Whatsapp 9380715230

SM4, Khatri, 21.5.95 / 11:07 PM/5'2", MSc (HM) Pusa, Sales/Mktg Mngr MNC B'lore, 15 LPA. Seeks edu. wkg bride. GGN based family. 9810975210

Professionally Qlfd Working Match for
B.Tech, MBA, Punjabi Khatri only son 32/ 6'1"/ Wrkg. Senior Mgmt. ED Tech Gurgaon, Well Settled, Edu. Gurgaon based broad-minded family
Send details W'App/ Call 9999788949

TELUGU

SEEKING BRIDE FOR MD-DOCTOR,35,REDDY,AFFLUENT FAMILY,.REQ:27-33,DOCTOR/IIT/NIT/BITS.CON:7396279292,8639232860

BY NATIONALITY
NRI/ GREEN CARD

US based well settled Electrical engineer PhD brahmin boy 1995/5'10" seeks US educated working girl. contact 8448950105

WANTED GROOMS

WANTED GROOMS
BY CASTE
AGARWAL - BISA

CA Agarwal Girl 32/5'-1" Wheatish, Job Gurgaon 21 Lpa, Seeks Well Settled, Highly Educated, Vegetarian Groom. Cont: 9839083290

BRAHMIN

VADAMAL, Bharadwajam, Mrigaseerisham,Iyer,5'2", B.Com,MBA Finance, seeking boy professionally qualified and well employed in Bangalore, kerala Iyer boy. Ct : 8971298351 / 9952029018

ONLY USA based Br boy for Br b'ful girl 1993/5'2",BTech,MS -N.Corolina,wkg S/W DevOps, Rhode Island.Fathr retd Depty Excise Comm'r. M : 9286759693

PG Doctor/ IITIAN/ UPSC for Beautiful Brahmin 34/ 5'4" Asst professor AIIMS doctor family 7091527011

Brahmin, B.Tech, b. 1997, North Indian, beautiful girl, 5'6", working in Bangalore. Seeks prof qual Brahmin groom (pref Software). Ph No: 9414391911

JAIN

JAIN, slim, fair & beautiful girl (1998, 5'6"), Software Engineer in MNC (60 LPA, Bangalore) seeks qualified, vegetarian match. Tel: 9313573094

KAYASTHA

BHATNAGAR April 96, Non manglik, graduate Xavier's, journalism ACJ Chennai Working in leading channel. Mumbai. Father retd Army officer. Seeks well settled boy only from Mumbai 9752523699

SEEKING a qualified boy for a June'96-born girl, 5'6", MBA-Advertising, working in an MNC in a metro city. Family based in Lucknow #9415101865

KHATRI

SEEKING Compatible Well Settled Businessman for a Charming, Very Fair, B'ful Well educated Girl, June 1986, 5'3" Caste No bar #9650002649

ADVICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate / thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to claims and representations made by advertisers regarding particulars of status, age income of bride/groom.

TAMIL IYER

33, Brahacharanam,Iyer, Chathayam,5' 3" Divorce, working Bangalore,seeking groom, Qualified, Good Salary, only Iyer. Ct : 94474 43471

2000 Iyer Vadama Koundan iyam Thiruvonam -2 MA,MBA (HR& Mktg) Reconciliation officer in Standard Charted Bank Ct ::9495396944, 6282267504

BY COMMUNITY
AGARWAL

ALLIANCE from Agarwal / Bania, US Citizens, Professionals / Business Man / Doctors for well qualified 40 year old Agarwal girl, 5'3", family oriented, fair complexion, US Citizen, working in N J, well established family. Preferred vegetarian & Non drinker. Share profile with latest picture at urwelcome163@aol.com

SINGHAL Noida based girl b'ful slim brilliant LLM (NLU Jodhpur)wrkg social auditor Mar'98/5'5". Highly qlfd fmly of CAs & Drs. seeks well sttld Agarwal boy.W'ap: 9837126640

JAT

MBA BTech girl Sep 86/5'3 Job Bank Canada PR, US Green card, Father Doctor Delhi seeks Prof Qual boy-9818617806, aadi.rajyan@gmail.com

RAJPUT

27/5'4" B'FL Fair LLB girl in top MNC Delhi Fthr Sr Civil Servt GOI Sks H'sm Rajput Boy Civil serv/Cls I/IIT/IIM/corporate. 9971121316,9873434790

BY PROFESSION
DOCTORS

MD/MS BRAHMIN M4 MBBS, MS OPTHALMOLOGY GARHWALI BRAHMIN GIRL 1995/5'3" FROM A DOCTOR'S FAMILY 9411536600 7983038968

1999 Brahmin Vadakalai Iyengar Hastham Bharathwajam MS (ENT)Final Year Completing 2026 JUNE 5.5FT Expect : PG Doctor or well settled Groom Elite Family from Chennai Only. 9841078994

KAYASTH 17.4.96, 5'6" NM MBBS, MS, Persuing M.ch in Plastic Surgery 11.50Lpa Seeks w'sttld Dr Prefd. Uppr cast no bar. 9425081375,9424054010

BY RELIGION
HINDU

TRAINEE psychologist 81born divorcee 1son15 beaurucratic status family looking for well placed match Contact 9413340907

SHRIVASTAVA Girl 19-03-89 (9:50 AM) /5'6 SAP Bangalore 43LPA. Family from Bhopal, MP Looking for suitable boy Contact: 9425149643, 9424467288

SC BTech Girl June 95, 5 Ft, Vegan working in IT (Software) Hyd 24 LPA looking for a suitable groom from IT & wants to be childfree. WA 7842979955

GIRL B.E(ECE), 23/5'4", Wkg prof., Bangalore. Seeks VP-Lingayat BE/IIT/MBBS prof., well-settled groom. 24-28. M: 9084511881/9353083079

MUSLIM

PQM4 Sunni Syed, U. P. Girl, good looking, 1998born, 163cm, Grad, wrkg for an MNC at Bangalore, 6Lplus, from Syed/Shaikh boys from U. P. Wrkg at Bangalore. Send full biodata at shhrizwi53@yahoo.com .

SUNNI Sheikh Siddiqui girl, 5'3"/ 1996 smart, convent-edu, MBBS MD Medicine, affluent family. Seeking MD/MS/DM /MCh doctor, Civil Servant or Businessman. # 9839901213

SIKH

SM4 Punjabi Sikh Girl Jan83/5'3, Fair M.A, B.Ed Seek well settled,Educated Punjabi Groom,caste no bar contact 9284228047

REQUIRED Sikh smart boy (Job/ Business) for a sikh postgraduate working girl Age 30, 5'3", Father well settled in Ahmedabad. Mo. 9824022325

GENERAL
CASTE NO BAR

SAINI, wanted suitable groom for a mangalik beautiful, well-educated girl (DOB 1999), fair, 5' 2" postgraduate , belonging to a respectable family. Working as a voice calling officer in a private bank at Noida. Groom should be well-settled, educated, non-smoker, teetotaler and from a good family background. Preference for professionals working in government / private sector. Caste no bar for suitable match. Interested families may contact: 8076176864, 9013766752

HINDU LINGAYAT telugu 28/172/B Tech computers Top NIT(2014-2018)/software job with 15 LPA (2018-2021) prepared for UPSC (2021-2026) up to interview not selected / want to persue career again /present passive income 21lpa (through properties and investments) both parents gazetted officers/ seeks central/state/psu officers/PG doctors/ highly placed private sector/soft ware employees caste language and location no bar 9505063063

MBA, B'ful with modern outlook Aggarwal daughter May'86/5'5"/ Wrkg as Sr. Communication specialist in Delhi, both parents CAs. Seek Prof. Qlfd. well sttld never married groom from a reputed family, caste no bar. Send complete BHP to 9811036513, Email: caashokgupta@yahoo.co.in

SUITABLE match for smart 1991born Jain girl. LLM from Canada . Working in Canada. Boy should be handsome, well educated and settled in Canada.Contact 9357311560, 9878345437

SM4 well educated Sept'84/ 160cm wkg Sr. Manager Punjabi Khatri never married girl Jaipur bsd edu n cultured fmly pref India based professionally settled boy. drhemantanand@gmail.com

PQSM4 Sikh Girl, Fair, June'89, PG Diploma, B.Com. Agility Lead, MNC Hyderabad. 9247359183-Mother, 8390380566-Sister. Prefer: Punjabi-Sikh/Hindu

SEEKING aliance from upper caste for Bangalore based, beautiful girl, 95/5'6", MArch, daughter of Army officer, mother, sister doctors.Contact 9885186147

PQM Boy for issueless Beautiful PQ Settled Girl DOB07Feb91 Affluent family WA: 9953958841 pinkvivah2013@gmail.com

SM4 Kayasth girl October 89/5'4"/fair/B.Tech. from IIT plus MBA (USA) 90 LPA works in Bangalore. Caste no bar. # 9411219372,9456600079 after 8PM

SM4 V. B'ful Kayastha girl 89/ 5'8" MA Eng, DU, MBA Premier Inst. Mumbai. VP in HSBC Bank in HO Mumbai. CTC 45 lac.Cont. 8080586600/ 7506941495

PQM4 Feb 95 born B'ful & Fair 5'3",Sr UX researcher at MNC Bangalore (Pal kshatriya) looking for well stld IT sec boy. 9106511718/9428330317

COSMOPOLITAN

IAS/IPS/IIT/PROFESSOR /WELL Qualified Match For Beautiful Fair 31YR 168 CM Gaur Bhhamin Girl Jaipur Based Family PhD English From Oxford UK Mail: anuragupmanyu02@gmail.com WhatsApp: +91 9929355077

BENGALI, 5'3"/1989, Assistant Professor of Economics in a renowned Atlanta college seeks alliance from liberal, educated men, settled in the US, preferably in Atlanta or nearby. +91 98314 37792

BEAUTIFUL, slim Rajput girl, NM 35/5'7", PG (Europe), Des Consultant in Delhi. Looking for well-settled NM groom, tall, 35-42 yrs. js.vivah26@gmail.com

PRETTY, Fair, B'lore, Professional, 33 5'7", Master's, Progressive family, Non-veg, Groom tall, cultured, educated, smart, well-placed. 8618070295.

BY LANGUAGE
BENGALI

WELL-SETTLED Alliance for Chandigarh based Bengali Girl Pastry Chef, 94 born, 5'4". Business Family from Chandigarh.Bengalis & Non-Bengalis (Upper Cast only). Contact Phone: 8284854506

SM4 Bengali Rajbanshi 30 MBBS doing MD (Anaes). Delhi based parents. Caste no bar. 7003080000 prashyish@gmail.com

SM4 Mumbai 1992 born 5'5" Slim fair B'ful Bengali Brahmin girl, Working in National Carrier (Airlines) at Delhi (Non Veg)Call: 9769885822

PUNJABI

LOOKING for professional, slim,tall boy for a smart, good looking, 5'.5", Dec 94, punjabi girl, working in BLR. Call or whatsapp biodata: 9849640921

TAMIL

B.E., MBA., 28/6'1 MNC Bangalore Saiva Vellalar Brahmin Veg Girl seeks suitable alliance Ph 9841535955

BY NATIONALITY
NRI/ GREEN CARD

✔ **BS** Comp Engg from USA, Feb 90/5'2" Punjabi Gupta girl, Wkg Int Org Toronto, seeks PQ boy in USA/ India/Canada. 9899105601

MATCH for Seattle Microsoft SW Engr, Dec'91,5'5",beautiful North Indian girl. Caste, lower age no bar. Parents in Bangalore WA 9845624616

RAJPUT girl, NRI (Poland) Slim fair 31 Yrs, 5'5" MBA working in MNC. Seeks suitable Match, Father NRI Retired MNC. Call 9821203504

B'FUL GB 1990/5'3" ph.D Biochem,researcherin K.T.H Uni sweden Pref. br w'qlfd stld or willing stld in Scandinavion /europe countries 960 2744455

JAIN 28, 5'7" B'ful S/W Engr. wkg Meta Newyork 1.80 CR (Ft ENT Dr.) seeks US bsd w'stld w'edu gud looking boy Upper cast no bar 9301550045

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

ARYA VYSYA, 28, 175 cms, Businessman, Masters. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from the similar community. Contact: 6366530297

KSHATRIYA RAJU, 31, 183 cms, Businessman, Bachelors. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match from any community. Contact: 6366530297

REDDY, 39, 185 cms, Businessman, Masters. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible and well settled match. Contact: 6366530297

NAIR, 34, 178 cms, Businessman, Masters. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366530297

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 31, 163 cms, Management Professional, Masters. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from the similar community. Contact: 6366530296

GOWDA, 38, 163 cms, Divorced, Businessman, Bachelors. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366530296

REDDY, 27, 168 cms, Practice Lead, Bachelors. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match from any community. Contact: 6366530296

ARYA VYSYA, 28, 175 cms, Businessman, Masters. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from the similar community. Contact: 6366530297

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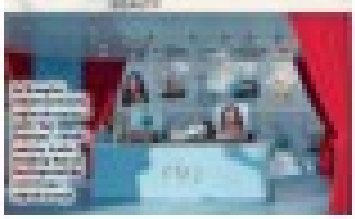
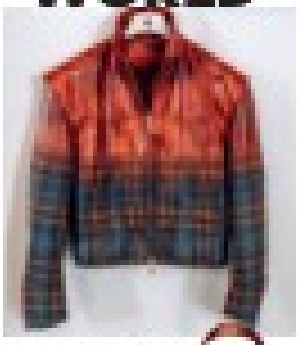
Pop-ups: The soft sell of luxury theatre

From Ralph Lauren to Valentino, the world's biggest luxury houses are going all out on immersive, experiential pop-ups like never before



WINDOW TO THE WORLD

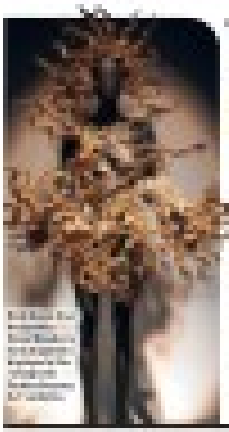


WHERE LEATHER MEETS WOOL

TITANIC TIMEPIECE HEADS TO AUCTION

WORLD'S COSTLIEST WINE FETCHES $7.43 Cr

Your quick guide to fashion exhibitions



Lok Sabha seats for southern states won't be reduced: PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvalla: PM Narendra Modi said at an NDA election rally on Saturday that Lok Sabha seats would not be reduced in the southern states, which have successfully controlled their populations, and that the total number of seats would increase to benefit states across the country.

"There are rumours being spread that seats will be reduced in south Indian states, but this is completely untrue. Parliament will take steps to ensure that their seats are fully protected. States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra, Goa, Telangana, and others that have done well in population control must not lose any Lok Sabha seats even if their population growth is lower," the PM said.

PM Modi arrives at Thiruvalla in Pathanamthitta on Saturday

Modi said LDF and UDF are accusing each other of being BJP's "B-team" as they know the saffron party is the "A-team" in Kerala. "The hostility shown by LDF and UDF in Kerala is fake," he said, adding both were spreading lies about proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

On the Sabarimala gold scam, Modi said the temple has become "a target of loot" for both fronts.

'Target Stalin govt on TN's financial situation'

In Chennai, chairing a meeting to review poll preparedness with members of BJP's Tamil Nadu core committee at a hotel on Saturday, Modi directed them to come up with a counter-narrative to DMK during the election campaign.

Fate of 23 lakh deleted voters hangs in balance as tribunals yet to start work

Kaushik Pradhan & Sarthak G | TNN

Kolkata: The fate of more than 23 lakh voters excluded from the electoral rolls post-SIR in Bengal hangs in balance as the tribunals for adjudication of appeals remained non-functional till Saturday. Monday is the last day for adjudication for voters of the 152 constituencies going to polls in the first phase. For these voters, tribunals are the last hope after their first appeals were rejected during the judicial review process.

The first phase of the elections is scheduled for April 23, for which the deadline to submit nominations ends at 3pm on April 6. Under EC rules, the voter list can be published until the last date of filing nominations. So, the electoral rolls for the constituencies where polling will be held on April 23 will freeze by 3pm on Monday.

KEEPING A CHECK

According to a senior EC official, around 52 lakh of a little over 60 lakh cases marked as 'under adjudication' had been disposed of till Thursday. "Over 700 judicial officers have been appointed to dispose of 60,06,475 doubtful and pending cases marked 'under adjudication' in the electoral rolls. They began work on Feb 24, and by April 2, about 52 lakh cases were disposed of. Of the cases processed so far, 55% have been approved, and those names have been added to the electoral rolls. The 45% of cases that were rejected have been excluded from the list, and they can appeal either online or offline against orders passed by the judicial officers to the appellate tribunals within 15 days," an EC official said.

Considering the rejection rate of 45%, 23.4 lakh persons have already lost their voting rights in the judicial adjudication process so far and are eligible to appeal to the appellate tribunals. However, the necessary infrastructure for retired judges — who are expected to preside over the tribunal proceedings — has not yet been put in place.

BATTLEGROUND WEST BENGAL

Pressure parties over quota: PM to women

▸ Continued from page 1

You should tell members of Congress and LDF that these laws should be passed unopposed... Women should pressure all political parties," he told voters in CPM-led LDF governed Kerala. He said, "I also appeal to them that this right of our mothers and sisters is pending for 40 years. It should not remain so in the 2029 polls."

Modi noted that his govt had called Congress for a meeting over the issue and has spoken to parties from opposition INDIA bloc. While some opposition parties attended the meeting spearheaded by home minister Amit Shah, Congress, TMC and Left have kept away. Congress and Left have called for an all-party meeting, an unlikely possibility with Parliament set to meet mid-month, a week ahead of assembly polls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Kerala is going to the polls on April 9, and BJP believes that its move for the women's quota implementation will help it deepen traction with women voters in the three states, which have been a stronghold of opposition parties.

Hindi row flares up as Stalin, Centre clash ahead of polls

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

Stalin & Dharmendra Pradhan

BATTLEGROUND TAMIL NADU

New Delhi: With 18 days to polling, Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin has sharpened a familiar electoral plank, accusing the Centre of pushing Hindi through CBSE's NEP-aligned three-language rollout. Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan hit back, calling the charge a political cover and pitching NEP-2020 as a mother-tongue-first, flexible multilingual model.

The clash has turned a curriculum change into a high-stakes political faultline, forcing parties to pick sides on identity, federalism and access.

Stalin's broadside targets CBSE's phased rollout from Class VI in the 2026-27 academic session. He argues the "so-called" three-language formula effectively becomes "compulsory Hindi" for non-Hindi states, while Hindi-speaking regions face no comparable mandate to teach Tamil or other southern languages, raising questions of parity and fairness.

DMK has also sought to draw AIADMK and its NDA allies into the debate, asking them to clarify their stand.

Pradhan dismissed the charge as a "tired attempt" to mask governance failures, asserting that multilingualism strengthens, rather than dilutes, regional languages. He maintained that portraying flexibility as imposition risks narrowing opportunities for students in an increasingly interconnected economy, and accused the state govt of politicising reform for electoral gains.

CBSE's proposed structure — R1, R2 and R3 — makes a third language mandatory from Class VI, with at least two Indian languages in the mix.

NEP-2020 retains the three-language formula but promises "greater flexibility" and states that "no language will be imposed on any State," leaving choices to states, regions and learners, with implementation planned in phases over the decade.

Three block Tharoor's car, assault his gunman

Kochi: Police in Kerala's Malappuram district arrested three people and seized their cars for allegedly blocking Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's vehicle and assaulting his gunman. The trio was booked under relevant sections of BNS.

The action was taken based on a complaint lodged by the MP's gunman. According to the FIR, a group of men in two cars tried to block Tharoor's official vehicle on Chellithode bridge when he was on his way to Wandoor town. They abused and thrashed the gunman when he tried to clear the way for the MP's vehicle. The accused were presented in court and were granted bail. TNN

Notices to LDF, UDF candidates amid row over 'communal' campaign

Kozhikode: Returning officer of Kerala's Perambra assembly constituency has issued notices to both LDF and UDF candidates after a row over "communal undertones" during campaigning. TNN

LDF devoid of ideology: Rahul

Alappuzha/Idukki: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Saturday called Kerala's LDF communal, opportunistic, power-hungry, and devoid of ideology.

He criticised the CM for describing the brutal assault on Alappuzha candidate A D Thomas by his security personnel as a 'rescue operation'. "LDF is communal and it doesn't accept the Constitution," he said. TNN

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
TELANGANA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED (TGIIC)
[e-Auction Notification No:2024-4/TGIIC/LANDS /E-AUCTION/2025 Dated 05-04-2026]

TGIIC provides an Opportunity to Own Encumbrance Free Prime Land Parcels Zoned Under Multi-Use at Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Sanga Reddy District, Telangana

The Government of Telangana is desirous of calling bids for sale of certain Government land parcels strategically located in Sy.No. 30, Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Sanga Reddy District, Telangana, on "As is where is Basis" through e-Auction. TGIIC, on behalf of the Government of Telangana, invites bids for sale of the following land parcels through e-Auction.

Auction Schedule

Sl. No.	Plot No.	Name of Village & Mandal	Sy. No.	Extent * (Acres)	Extent * (sq. yds.)	Geo-location	Land Use	Upset Reserve Price (Rs. Crore per acre)	Minimum Bid Increment per Acre or Multiples thereof (in Rs. Crores)	Pre-bid EMD (Rs. Crores)	Last date for Registration, Pre-bid EMD Payment and Bid Document Fee	Date of e-Auction	Pre-bid Queries
1	1	Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram (M)	30	~10.09	~ 48,835		Multi-use	39.00	0.25	5.00	22-04-2026 Time: Till 5:00 PM	23-04-2026 Time: 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM	Pre-bid queries to be shared at: ce-iic@telangana.gov.in Before 16-04-2026
2	6	Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram (M)	30	~5.72	~ 27,685		Multi-use	39.00	0.25	5.00		23-04-2026 Time: 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM	

DATE OF NOTIFICATION: 05-04-2026
REGISTRATION FEE: Rs. 1,180/- incl. of GST (non-refundable)
Details of e-brochure and other terms & conditions shall be available from 06-04-2026 at https://www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in and https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/govts/index.jsp
For further details on TGIIC Land Parcels for e-Auction: Log on to https://www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in
For Registration and e-Auction details and Participation log on to https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/govts/index.jsp
*The land extent referenced above is provisional and indicative only. The exact land extent shall be determined by a joint survey to be carried out with the successful bidder

CONTACT INFORMATION
For Site Visits:
Shri. D.Ravi, Chief Engineer, M: 77299 83214, ce-iic@telangana.gov.in
Smt. M Kavitha, Zonal Manager,M: 99482 20512, zm-cyb-iic@telangana.gov.in
Service Provider: For queries on e-Auction process, registration with MSTC, payment of Pre-bid EMD
Shri. Siddharth Varadi, Manager, M: 8801074754, hydopn1@mstcindia.in
Shri: Sai Dinesh Kumar T, Sr Assistant, M: 7799570600;hyd@mstcindia.co.in
Transaction Advisor:
Surya Kiran Balla – Senior Director, M: 99123 99077; surya.balla@jll.com
Kalyan Koppula – Senior Director, M: 99665 22277 , kalyan.koppula@jll.com
Sujith S – Senior Manager, M: 90333 05634; sujith.surapaneni@jll.com

CENTRAL MEDICAL SERVICES SOCIETY
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
2nd Floor , Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Teen Murti Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110 021
Phone: 011-21410905
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Central Medical Services Society (CMSS), a Central Procurement Agency of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of India, invites applications from eligible Indian citizens for filling the following position on deputation / contract basis.

Sr. No.	Name of Post (on deputation / contract basis)*	No. of Post	Pay Scale (on deputation basis)	Monthly Emoluments (in Rs.) (on contract basis)
01	Joint Director / General Manager (Quality Assurance)	01	Pay Level-12 (15600-39100)	2,00,000/-+ PF

* Eligible candidate may be recruited on deputation / contract basis, who so ever is most suitable for the assignment. On deputation basis, officer designated as 'Joint Director' and on contract basis, officer designated as 'General Manager'.
Age limit- Maximum age for deputation is 56 years and for contract is 55 years as on the last date of receipt of applications.
Interested applicant may write email to recruitment@cmss.gov.in for the details of advertisement, application form, general terms & conditions or it can be downloaded from CMSS website (cmss.gov.in) or from MoH&FW website (mohfw.gov.in).
The last date of receipt of applications by 'India Post' at CMSS is 05.05.2026.
Advt. No: Admn/RECT/3/2026-ADMIN-CMSS /dated 05.04.2026
GM (Administration)

Government of Karnataka - Department of Health and Family Welfare
Taluk General Hospital , Soraba, Shivamogga
Email: sorabhospital@gmail.com Tel: 08184-272216
No.: GHS/Development(2)/01/2025-26 Date: 02-04-2026
Short Term Re-Tender Notice
A short-term re-tender notice is being issued in the dual submission system (two-cover documents) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act (KTPP), 1999 and Rules, 2000 for providing 12 numbers of Group 'D' and 12 numbers of Non-Clinical Sanitation Staff on an outsourcing basis for the Taluku General Hospital, Soraba, Shivamogga District for the year 2026-2027. Interested tenderers are requested to participate.
Sl.No. 1. Tender Notice No.: GHS/Development(2)/01/2025-26, Date: 02-04-2026 Tender Details: Providing 12 numbers of Group 'D' and 12 numbers of Non-Clinical Sanitation Staff on an outsourcing basis for the Taluku General Hospital, Soraba, Shivamogga District Deadline for submission of Tender: From 02-04-2026 to 16-04-2026 up to 05.00 PM Tender Estimated Amount: Rs. 70.00 Lakhs EMD Details: Rs. 1.75 lakhs to be submitted through the e-procurement portal
For further details, please contact the Administrative Medical Officer, Taluk General Hospital, Soraba, Shivamogga District during office hours or obtain them from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Administrative Medical OfficerTaluku General Hospital, Soraba, Shivamogga District
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/35/33,04/35

6001/1/2627
The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO.: 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail ID: omfed@yahoo.com
www.omfed.com
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OMFED invites techno-commercial offers from experienced bidders for Supply, Installation, testing, Commissioning and Trial run of Ammonia Compressor 50 HP capacity at Rourkela Dairy & Berhampur Dairy. The e-tender is invited on-line through 'e'-procurement of Govt. of Odisha web Portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in and http://www.omfed.com. The Bid documents will be available in the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in from 10.00 AM of 03.04.2026 to 02.00 PM of 23.04.2026. The technical bid shall be opened at 03.00 PM. of 24.04.2026 at OMFED Corporate office in the presence of the interested bidders. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid document or part thereof without assigning any reason.
Sd/-
Managing Director
DIPR-6001/6003/1/26-27/0001

VAPI GREEN ENVIRO LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE & CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum for E-Tender for Construction of Secured Landfill Site for Industrial Hazardous Waste and construction of its Utilities at CHWTSDF Site, Vapi-Gujarat uploaded on MSTC portal. Interested organizations may visit www.mstcecommerce.com and www.vgelvapi.com for downloading tender & It's Corrigendum or e-mail to dgm.purchase@vgelvapi.com or call 9714000828. Last date for submission of E-Tender is 14th April, 2026, 15:00 PM

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Maritime Board
[Erstwhile: Infrastructure Development Department, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department]
Third Floor, West Entrance, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (CALL-2)
The Karnataka Maritime Board (KMB), hereby invites "OPERATING BERTH AT MALPE PORT, KARNATAKA UNDER PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) MODEL ON RENOVATE, OPERATE, MAINTAIN AND TRANSFER (ROMT) BASIS" (IDD/2025-26/SE0060/CALL-2)"
The RFP and other document can be downloaded from e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 02.04.2026 onwards. The last date for submission of bids is 01.05.2026 till 17:30 Hrs. Any further changes pertaining to the RFP will be uploaded in e-procurement platform only.
Contact Details: Office of Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Maritime Board, Aligadda, Baithkol, Karwar-581302
Phone: 08382-221494; & E-mail: piwtdev.wks@gmail.com/ ceokmb2019@gmail.com
Sd/- Port Engineer, Karnataka Maritime Board, Karwar
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/10/26-27 Dt. 02.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that our client intends to transact with Vibrancy Real Estates Private Limited, a company registered under the provisions of Companies Act, 2013 and having its registered office at 29th & 30th Floor, WTC, Brigade Gateway Campus, 26/1, Dr Rajkumar Road, Malleswaram-Rajajinagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, India – 560 055 being the owner of the immovable property being industrial land admeasuring 44679.932693 square metres situated in Kadugodi and Sadaramangala Villages, Sadaramangala Industrial Area, Bangalore District, which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter to as the "Schedule Property".
Any person(s), entity, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise), banks or financial institutions having any claim(s), including any right, title, interest, entitlement, charge, demand whatsoever in respect of or against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof and/or any of the title deeds or records in respect thereof by way of sale, transfer, assignment, allotment, exchange, right, interest, share, license, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, encumbrance, occupation, covenant, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption, inheritance, bequest, succession, will, testamentary instrument, probate, letters of administration, possession, use, occupation, development rights/potential, agreement, litigation, lis-pendens, family arrangement, settlement, decree or order of any court of law or otherwise of whatsoever nature or otherwise howsoever ("Claim"), is/are hereby required to make the same known, in writing, together with documentary proof in support thereof to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of industrial land admeasuring 44679.932693 square metres (equivalent to 11.04 acres) bearing EPID No 2782990767 and Property No 174 (comprised in Survey No 1 measuring 10 acres situated at Kadugodi Industrial Area, Kadugodi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru District) and 175 (comprised in Survey No 81 measuring approximately 1 acre situated at Kadugodi-Whitefield Industrial Area, Sadaramangala Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District), Ward No 83- Kadugodi bounded as below-
East by : Property belonging to Steyr India and part of Survey No 81 of Sadaramangala Village;
West by : 40 feet wide Road/KIADB Road;
North by : Property belonging to Steyr India; and
South by : Whitefield Road.
Date: 05.04.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sudheer Madamaiah
Partner
Khaitan & Co.
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, #45/1, Magrath Road, Bengaluru – 560 025.
T: +91 80 4339 7000

Head Office, IT (Governance & Excellence) Department, Star House-3, PNB-BOI Tower, C-29, G Block, 10th Floor , Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
E-mail: HOIT.G&E@bankofindia.bank.in
Bank of India
Relationship beyond banking
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR
Procurement of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for the existing Wireless LAN Controller and Network Devices at the Head Office, for a period of five (5) years. vide Ref. No.: HO:IT(G&E):RFP:AMC:2025-26:1466 Date: 30.03.2026. GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7402580 Dated 30.03.2026.
The captioned RFP is available on Bank's corporate website www.bankofindia.bank.in under "Tender" section & GeM portal. Subsequent changes if any, will henceforth be uploaded on the Bank's website & GeM portal. The last date of submission: 20.04.2026

Wanted Design Engineer
CTTC, Bhubaneswar urgently requires graduate engineer in mechanical for working in R&D Department for development of Valves & Pumps for Aircrafts Application. The interested candidates can apply through mail : cttc@cttc.gov.in, to The General Manager within 10th April 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
CENTRAL TOOL ROOM & TRAINING CENTRE
(Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India)
B-36, Chandaka Industrial Area, Bhubaneswar-751024, Odisha
Phone - 0674 - 2654711, E-mail : cttc@cttc.gov.in,
Website : www.cttc.gov.in

THE KARNATAKA STATE CRICKET ASSOCIATION
M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Cubbon Road, Bangalore - 560 001.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Eligible Architects/ Consultants are invited for re-modelling the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru. The project aims to enhance the stadium infrastructure and augment the seating capacity, while incorporating modern amenities and comprehensive sports infrastructure in line with best-practices international standards complying with state-of-the-art implementation with the concurrence of the KSCA. The eligible Architects/ Consultants shall possess proven & certified expertise in engineering and architectural consultancy for international stadia and/or large-scale sports infrastructure projects.
PART A - Eligibility Criteria (Mandatory Pre-Qualification)
1) The firms shall be reputed, registered (relevant testimonials shall be enclosed) architectural firm / international stadium design firm / consortium.
2) Shall possess prior experience in designing at least one international cricket stadium / international sports stadium with a seating capacity of 30,000 or more OR shall have completed at least three large public infrastructure projects (airports, sports complexes, convention centres, or similar projects) each exceeding INR 100 Crores in project value.
3) The firms shall have been in operation for at least 10 (ten) years.
4) The firms shall have a multidisciplinary team including architecture, structural engineering, MEP, sustainability, and crowd management planning.
5) The firms shall demonstrate financial capability and technical capacity to undertake a project of this scale.
6) Joint ventures / consortiums / Firms not meeting the above criteria shall not be considered.
7) Architects/ Consultants with proven experience in stadium up-gradation projects of comparable scale and complexity will be given preference.
PART B - Scope of Work (Indicative)
The scope of work includes but is not limited to the following. Each of the items mentioned below will be considered for evaluation, among other criteria.
• Master Planning • Stadium Architectural Design • Structural Design • Redevelopment Phasing Plan • Corporate Boxes & Hospitality Design • Fan Experience & Crowd Flow Planning • Parking & Traffic Movement Planning • Sustainability & Green Building Design • Practice Facilities & Player Areas • Commercial & Mixed-Use Development Planning (if applicable) • Compliance with ICC/BCCI norms • Cost Estimation & Project Phasing with detailed estimate, BOQ , technical specifications and any other necessary requirements • Drafting of the detailed and comprehensive tender documents and assisting in tender process • Technical and financial evaluation of bids and recommendation of suitable bidders
Supervision during execution, installation, and commissioning stages • Scrutiny of bills and certification of quality and issuance of Completion Certificate.
PART C - Process
A. Interested parties shall submit their profile, credentials, relevant experience, testimonials and Architectural/Consultancy remuneration structure in a sealed cover addressed to Hon. Secretary, KSCA, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru – 560001.
B. Last date for receipt of EOI: Wednesday 15th April 2026 by 5.00 pm at the appropriate box kept in the Civil Engineering Department at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium Cubbon Road Bangalore 560001.
C. For any further details contact: H A Venkatesh Prasad, Consultant Engineer– Mob: 99456 04515 and Ananth Iyengar Asst Manager Mob-84949 04495
D. KSCA reserves the right to accept / reject any EOI without assigning reasons.
Sd/-
Hon. Secretary-KSCA

GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD

"SAGAR BHAVAN", Sector 10/A, CHH Road, Opp. Air Force, Gandhinagar – 382010 • Phone 079-23238346/47/48

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) invites sealed Request for Proposal (RFP) for "selection of consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the proposed ports at Dahej and Mahuva." RFP document will be available on GMB website **www.gmbports.org** and **https://gmbtender.nprocure.com** from 01/04/2026 to 27/04/2026.

Gujarat Maritime Board

Department of Health & Family Welfare

KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY

Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023. Tel: 080-2955 7021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com

No: KSAPS/PRC/05/2025-26 **Date: 01.04.2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (Two Cover) (Call-3) through e-Procurement

Short Term Tenders (Two Cover) (Call-3) are invited for Supply of Barcode and Scanner machines, Stickers etc. to ART Centers through e-Procurement System. More details are available at website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date for submission of tender **on 24.04.2026 upto 5.30 p.m.**

Sd/-
Project Director
KSAPS, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/056/MAA/2026-27

KARNATAKA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (KUIDFC)

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, # 22. 17th "F" Cross, Old Madras Road, Indira Nagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru 560038
Website: www.kuidfc.com, e-Mail: info@kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/Admn/AM/HOV/CR-254/2026-27 Date: 04.04.2026

Short-term e-Tender Notification

KUIDFC Bengaluru invites tenders from the authorized service providers for Hiring of **Light Commercial Passenger Vehicles (Yellow Board)** on monthly basis for a period of 2 years. The tender document will be available on e-Procurement portal of GOK (https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in) **from 08.04.2026 to 22.04.2026 up to 17.30 hrs.** The bidders can upload the proposals only through e-Procurement portal. For any further notification please refer e-Procurement portal.

Sd/-
General Manager (Admn)

DIPR/CP/64/AKAR/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಧಾರವಾಡ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

Phone : 0836-2447483 E Mail : dhodharwad@gmail.com

ಕ್ರಸಂ:ಪೂರ್ವೈಕೆ/ಮಾ.ಸಂ.ಗು/ವಹಿ/01/2026–2027 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: 2026–2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಲು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : 1. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಕಡತ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 65/ದಿನಾಂಕ 31.03.2026
2. Tender No: DHFWS/2026-27 /SE2130

ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಶಹರದ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಕೆ.ಎಮ್.ಸಿ.ಐ.ಆರ್. ತಾಯಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಅತೀ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದಗಳ ಖಾಲಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸರಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶವಿರುವ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ 1 ರನ್ವಯ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 31.03.2026 ರಂದು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **70.00** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಎಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **1.40.000–00** (2.%) ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **16.04.2026** at 16.30 pm ಆಗಿದ್ದು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಟೆಂಡರ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ
ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಧಾರವಾಡ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/12/2026–27

VISAKHAPATNAM METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Siripuram Junction, Visakhapatnam

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

EOI No.VMRDA-12/9/2025-ENG SEC; Dt 01-04-2026

Assignment Title: Sale / Development of the Land parcel Located in S.No.421/P carved out from S.No.27/P, Madhurawada (V), Chinagadila (M), Visakhapatnam (Madhurawada Heights).

VMRDA intends to **Sale / Development in PPP mode.** Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from the prospective agencies. The detailed REOI is available at www.apeprocurement.gov.in. the last date for submission of EOI is 30/04/2026 03:00 PM.

Sd/- Metropolitan Commissioner, VMRDA

Government of Karnataka

(Department of School Education)

Karnataka Text Book Society®

6th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003
e-mail: **mdktbs.tender@gmail.com** Website: **https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in**

No: A7/98529/KTBS/ADM/TBTR/9/2025-26/Part-1/KTBS/26-27/IND0019 **Date: 04.04.2026**

SHORT-TERM RETENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement portal only)

07 days Short term Re-Tender is invited under Two Bid System for the year 2026-27 on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible printers, having Infrastructure as specified in the Tender Document to print and supply textbooks, to students of Government Schools. Package wise payable EMD details are mentioned under section 10 of the Re-tender document.

Eligible printers may offer their bidding up-to **5.30 PM on 11.04.2026.** Tender document is available in e-portal as well as department website.

E-procurement portal address: https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Portal Helpline: +91-9240214000 / +91-9240214001
Department Website: https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Managing Director, KTBS, Bengaluru.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (MP & CS)
Old Madras Road, K R Puram, Bengaluru - 560 036

No: BECC/PR/EE(MP&CS)/01/2026-27 **Date: 02-04-2026**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

(Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC, Bengaluru -36, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in GBA or BECC or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Services detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Assignment of Commercial Advertisement Rights in the limits of Bengaluru East City Corporation (Mahadevapura Zone-01) Call-2 **Estimated Amount: ₹.700.50 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.20,00,000/- (19 lakhs B.G & 1 lakh to be paid in e-procurement Portal)**
2.	Assignment of Commercial Advertisement Rights in the limits of Bengaluru East City Corporation (K R Pura Zone-02) Call-2 **Estimated Amount: ₹.230.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.20,00,000/- (19 lakhs B.G & 1 lakh to be paid in e-procurement Portal)**
3.	Improvements to Burial ground at Kalkere burial ground in **Ward No.88**, Kalkere (Category - Others) Call-2 **Estimated Amount: ₹.10.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.25,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **10-04-2026**, **4:00** pm. (2) Pre Bid meeting will be held on **06-04-2026** at **3:00** pm. (3) Tender Documents can be Downloaded from **04-04-2026** (4) Last Date for Submission of tender documents on or before **10-04-2026** at **4:00** pm. (5) Technical Bids will be opened on **13-04-2026** at **10:30** am onwards. (6) Financial Bids will be Opened on **15-04-2026** at **10:30** am (7) Pre-Bid Meeting Queries should be submitted on or before **06-04-2026**, **3:00** pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (MP & CS)
Bengaluru East City Corporation,

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P) 456001
Ph. 0734- 2525856

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

USCL/422 Tender ID: 2026_UAD_497006_1 date 03/04/2026 Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites online bids from eligible bidders "Development Works at Gadhkalika Mata Mandir and Precinct at Ujjain". Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 6,57,083/-
Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 30,000/-
Probable Amount of Contract (PAC)	Rs. 13,14,16,417/-
Purchase of Tender Start Date	03/04/2026
Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Visit	10/04/2026
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	27/04/2026 upto 17:00 **hrs**

For more details, please visit https://www.mptenders.gov.in. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.

For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

BALLARI CITY CORPORATION, BALLARI

No: BCC/Eng/S.T.N./2025-26 **Date: 31.03.2026**

Tender Notification (KPPP)

The Commissioner Ballari City Corporation, Ballari invites tender as per the KTPP Act 1999-2000 through KPPP portal for year 2025-26 General grant for Indent No. 1) DMA/2025-26/SE7612 eligible bidders with having valid labour licence can participate in the tender, the tender documents can be downloaded in the KPP Portal till 08.04.2026 on or before 17.30 hours. Date of opening of technical bid is on 10.04.2026 at 10.30 hours. Date of opening of financial bid is on 15.04.2026 at 10.30 hours. Transaction fee & EMD should be remitted in the KPPP Portal, Government of Karnataka: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For any further details contact this office in working hours.

Sd/- Commissioner,
Ballari City Corporation Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/17

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department

Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.

District: Shivamogga, Taluk: Hosanagara,
e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com

No: ACF/HNR/ Campa /CR-1/2026-27/1 Date: 02.04.2026

Detailed e-Tender Notice.

(e-Tender Notice Through e-Procurement Portal)

Unitwar Re Tender (Call-2) is invited in two cover system through e-procurement portal from interested Forest Contractors having experience for implementation of total 73 Advance Works for formation of plantation and maintenance and maintenance of saplings under CAMPA Scheme of Approx. total Rs. 3.67 crores in various places in the limits of various forest zones of Sagar Division for the year 2026-27. Last date for submission of Tender is fixed as: 09.04.2026 up to 5.15 PM. Complete details of works and places are explained in the e-Procurement Portal. For further information this office can be contacted and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/23/04/27

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT,

N.W. R. W.S. & KALPSAR DEPT.

"E" procurement Notice No. SBD-4 of 2026

Name of the work.:- Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract for Providing irrigation water for filling of Various ponds Situated within 3 Km from main pipeline of Sauni Yojana Link-1 Package-1 & 2 (Dist. - Morbi) (Taluka- Morbi & Tankara) through various Dia HDPE/MS Pipeline by making connection from existing pipeline/Scour Valve with all allied works etc. complete including operation and maintenance for 3 years.

Estimated Cost of the Work:-Rs. 12,16,37,168=85 (Excluding G.S.T)

- Last date for down loading bid documents: - **Up to Dt.30/04/2026 Up to 17.00 Hrs.**
- Last date of online submission:- Up to **Dt.30/04/2026 up to 18.00 Hrs.**
- Last date for physical submission of Documents from **Dt.01/05/2026 to Dt.07/05/2026** during office Hrs.
- Date & place for Site Visit: **Dt. 09/04/2026 @ 9.00 Hrs.** At. Chotila.

Date & Place for Pre-Bid Meeting: **Dt.15/04/2026 @ 04.00 Hrs** At. Committee Hall Block No.9, 4th floor NWRWS & K. Deptt. New Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar.

Date of online opening (Pre-qualification Bid only) :-**Dt. .01/05/2026 at 12.00 Hrs.** at the S.E., R.I.P.C., 2/5 Jilla Seva Sadan-2, Rajkot Office.

(Any further corrigendum if required will be done online only)

Name & Address of **Superintending Engineer,** Rajkot Irrigation Project Circle, 2/5-Jilla Seva Sadan No.2, Race Course Road, Rajkot-360001. Phone No. (0281)-2443680, Fax No. (0280)-2453161 & **Executive Engineer,** Sauni Yojana Division, 4/5-Jilla Seva Sadan No.2, Race Course Road, Rajkot-360001 Phone No. (0280)-2443231

Further details can be seen on **www.gujaratinformation.gujarat.gov.in** and **http://tender.nprocure.com**

Note: - Any corrigendum hereafter will be published directly on website.

Mahiti/Raj/22/26-27

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society

(An Organisation of Govt. of Karnataka)
No. 8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052

No:KREIS/INFR/OTH/79/2024-ADMN **Date:04.04.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Tendering Only)

A Short term Call-4 Tender have been invited on Dated: 04.04.2026 for Supply of Food Materials to Residential Schools/Colleges under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society for RAICHUR District with Indent No:KREIS/2024-25/IND0028/CALL-4 through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and the last date for receipt of tenders is 24.04.2026 within 5:30 P.M. The details may be viewed in the above website.

Sd/-
Executive Director
KREIS, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/73/CCL/2026-27

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P) 456001
Ph. 0734- 2525856

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

USCL/423 Tender ID: 2026_UAD_497019_1 date 03/04/2026 Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites online bids from eligible bidders - "Survey, design, engineering, procurement, construction, installation, testing, commissioning, operation & maintenance, and transfer of the integrated development & conservation of Maharishi Sandipani Ashram, Ujjain-2nd call". Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 50,00,000/-
Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 50,000/-
Proble Amount of Contract (PAC)	Rs. 139.97 Cr./-
Purchase of Tender Start Date	03/04/2026
Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Visit	13/04/2026
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	27/04/2026 upto 17:00 **hrs**

For more details, please visit https://www.mptenders.gov.in. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.

For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P) 456001
Ph. 0734- 2525856

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

USCL/424 Tender ID: 2026_UAD_497025_1 date 03/04/2026 Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites online bids from eligible bidders for "Development Works at siddhwat Ghat, Ujjain". Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 6,17,984 /-
Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 30,000/-
Proble Amount of Contract (PAC)	Rs. 12,35,96,642/-
Purchase of Tender Start Date	03/04/2026
Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Visit	10/04/2026
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	28/04/2026 upto 17:00 hrs

For more details, please visit https://www.mptenders.gov.in. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.

For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Society For Karnataka German Multi Skill Development Centre

(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the KGMSDC, COE Building, Kaushalya Bhavana Campus, Behind Govt. ITI (w), Dairy Circle, Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru - 560029.
Phone No. 080 - 29649797

No:KGS/PUR/KGT/MNG/H-VAC/ELE/CR-05/2025-26 Date: 02-04-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Two Separate Tenders are invited under Two-Electronic Tender Document System as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 through the e-Procurement Portal **2.0 (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for a period of 60 days from eligible and registered firms for the below mentioned Packages.

Sl. No.	Tender Name	Package Name	Tender Period
1	**Lab Set up at KGTTI Mangalore (Two Separate Packages)**	Supply and Establishment of Electrical and Energy Management Labs **(Package-1)**	60 Days
		Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Training Lab Setup **(Package-2)**	
2	**Lab Set up at KGTTI Belagavi (Two Separate Packages)**	Industrial Automation & Industry 4.0 Setup **(Package-1)**	60 Days
		Supply of Tool Room Equipment **(Package-2)**	

The Tender Documents will be available for download on the e-Procurement Portal starting **from 04-04-2026.** The Last Date for Submission (Uploading) of Tender Documents is **04-06-2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**

Interested and eligible firms are requested to visit the e-Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** to obtain the tender document and tender processing fee details and for further details contact e-Procurement Help Desk - Phone No. **080-22230960 / 22234115** or may also contact this office during working hours.

Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority /
Deputy Director (TRG)
Industrial Training & Employment, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/28/Adverto/2026-27

POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

E-Tender Enquiry Notice No. PI(EP)/25-26/G/05 **Phone No. 0172-2756469**

Tender applications are invited for purchase of various items against E- Tender No. **1-3** from the Manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/agents. The bidders can place their bids as per terms & conditions contained on https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .

Sr. No	Equipment/Item Name	Quantity	EMD	Bid submission Date	Bid Opening Date	Deptt Name
	Non-Pre Bid case					
1	Iodine-131 Solution	800mCi / Weekly Total 52 Consignments	Rs.1,20,000/-	**21-04-2026**	**22-04-2026**	**Nuclear Medicine**
2	Molybdenum99-Tc99m Column Generator	1000mCi / weekly Total 52 Consignments	Rs.1,82,000/-	**-do-**	**-do-**	**Nuclear Medicine**
3	PSMA-617 (for labeling with Lu-177),	20 mg half yearly, Total 40 mg, (2 Consignments in one year)	Rs.1,20,000/-	**-do-**	**-do-**	**Nuclear Medicine**

Tender document can also be downloaded from website www.pgimer.edu.in and can be applied on website **www.eprocure.gov.in.** Bid Security (EMD) should be for the amount as per the instruments defined in tender documents having its validity at least for one year & duly pledged in favour of **Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.** The tenders will be opened on the dates given above at 12:00 PM in the presence of the authorized intending tenderers. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form, not accompanied with Bid Security shall be summarily rejected.

NOTE 1. The terms and Conditions of the original Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) available on PGIMER Website will remain same. However on switching over to e-tendering on e-Procurement, the bids will be received in electronic form on e-Procurement website and no bid will be received in Physical form. **The EMD will be received in Physical form in Procurement Branch (Import) and scan copy is to be uploaded in electronic form on e-procurement website, CPPP Portal (Central Public Procurement Portal).**

NOTE 2. If any of the tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next full working day.

Additional Terms and Conditions.

1. The Institute has adopted amended Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) which is available on e-Procurement website **(https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app)** and **Website: www.pgimer.edu.in.** Therefore the bidders are requested to go through the Instructions Carefully before submitting bids.
2. In case of item Sr. No. 03 above Exemption under **Public Procurement (preference to Make in India) order 2017** has been granted by the Competent Authority, therefore Para 5 of Annexure 'A' of NIT will not be applicable in this case.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.

Professor In-Charge (EP)

25001/1/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNDARGARH

AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online – RWCCESNG -42 of 2025-26, Letter No 2041 /Dtd. 28.03.2026

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : Bridge Work
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding: From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding: To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender: Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender: Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-42 of 2025-26	06.04.2026 11:00 AM	20.04.2026 5:00 PM	18.04.2026 5:00 PM	21.04.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh

OIPR-25001/25133/1/26-27/0001

25001/364/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR

AT- CHANDIKHOL, PO- SUNGUDA, JAJPUR -754296, Email- serw_kpd@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online RCK-06/26 Letter No. - 1922 Date: 23.03.2026

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. **Name of the work** : Tender for the Bridge works under SBY in the Dist. of Kendrapara & Jajpur.
2. **Class of Contractor** : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.
3. **Time of Completion** : As specified in the Column-8 of the Annexure.
4. **Detail Projects** : As per Annexure attached
5. **Other Details :**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding: From	Availability of tender on-line for bidding: To	Last date & time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of Tender: Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of Tender: Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK - 06/26	10.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	28.04.2026 to 05.00 P.M.	28.04.2026 up to 02.00 P.M.	29.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur

OIPR-25001/25129/1/25-26/0028

ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570010
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0821–2590027, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821/2590082, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eochamunditemple@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: SCKDA:7(ಎ.ಶೇ)/C.R:1/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.04.2026

ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಕೋಟಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	
1	ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಉಳಿತಾಯ ಖಾತೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಠೇವಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ	60%=6,00,00,000 40%=4,00,00,000 **ರೂ.10,00,00,000**	**60%** 10,000	**40%** 10,000

ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **http://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in /** ನ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ನಿಬಂಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ದರವನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10–04–2026** ಸಂಜೆ **4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ** ಶ್ರೀ ಲೋಕೇಶ್, ಸಿ., ಎಸ್.ಡಿ.ಎ., ರವರ **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 8277638224** ರವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಮಯ
1	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	04.04.2026	6.00 PM ನಂತರ
2	ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	05.04.2026	
3	Pre-bid ಸಭೆಯು ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ದೇವಾಲಯದ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	07.04.2026	12.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ
4	ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿಗೆ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	10.04.2026	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
5	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	11.04.2026	ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
6	ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	13.04.2026	ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 2.00ರವರೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು 5 ನಿಮಿಷ ಡೆಲ್ಟಾ ಟೈಮ್ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
ಚಾಮುಂಡಿಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/10/ಠರಾ ಸಾಯು/2026–27

4001/5/2627

idco | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR- 751022.

Tender Call Notice No. IDCO:H.O./P&C/EST/E-614/01/2012/V-II// 8821, Dt.:30/03/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. **Name of the work** : Construction of Road from 300mtr Corridor to IMFA in Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex (KNIC) Jajpur, Odisha.
2. **Value of the work** : Rs.167.26 Lakhs.
3. **Period of Completion** : 08 (Eight) Calendar months.
4. **Other details**

Procurement Officer	Tender Reference No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022	P&C/ EST/ E-47/ 2025-26	08.04.2026 at 17.00 Hrs.	23.04.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.idco.in.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C),
IDCO, Bhubaneswar.

OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0003

25001/371/2526

By E_Maile-Despatch
E_Mail ID : serwcbaripada@gmail.com
Ph-No - 06792-261343 / 261344
Gangraj, Baripada

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

"e" Procurement Notice for Weir on Bridge Work

Identification No.- Online Tender- Weir on Bridge N.C.B. No. 408 for 2025-26.
Letter No. 2019/ Date: 24.03.2026

1. Name of the work : Construction of Weir adjacent to Bridge over Kushabhadra at 3rd Km on Kaptipada - Podadiha - Kullalum - Sandhei Road in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2024-25.
2. Total No. of work : **01** Nos. (One)
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs. 231.27 Lakhs** (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : **As per Annexure**
5. Period of Completion : **As per Annexure**
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding: From	Availability of tender On-line for bidding: To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada: Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada: Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Weir on Bridge On-line N.C.B. No. 408	Dt. 09.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 23.04.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 22.04.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 24.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- **Further details can be seen from the website : www.tendersorissa.gov.in.**
- **Any Corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.**

Sd/- **Er. A.K Naik**
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W.Circle, Baripada

OIPR-25001/25130/1/25-26/0032

In Kerala, winner will be familiar but game may change

BIG MOOD

RAHUL VERMA

BATTLE LINES: The state's bi-nodal politics and social development agendas obscure many schisms

The key question in the 2026 Kerala assembly election is whether the state will return to its predictable cycle of power alternation, or whether voters will make history by electing the incumbent for a third consecutive time. For decades, Kerala's politics has largely been a contest between two coalitions — the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) — and these coalitions alternated office every five years. But the pattern changed with the LDF winning a second consecutive term in 2021. Before Pinarayi Vijayan, no Kerala CM had been in office for ten straight years.

How is Kerala likely to vote on April 9? Many observers have suggested that UDF has a clear edge as LDF faces 10 years of anti-incumbency. Also, UDF's performance in the 2024 LS election, in which the coalition won 18 of 20 seats (and had a vote share lead of over 10 percentage points), along with their impressive performance in the 2025 local body polls, indicates that the Left may be heading for a defeat. However, the data suggests that it may not be as easy as it sounds.

First, UDF usually outperforms LDF in LS elections in the last three decades (except 2004). So, UDF sweeping the 2019 and 2024 LS polls in Kerala should be seen as part of a trend in which voters are more likely to vote for the Congress and its allies in national elections. This should be a concern for the Congress, which has shown a tendency in the past two years of losing elections in states where it had an advantage after LS 2024 (for example, Haryana and Maharashtra). Second, the vote share difference in assembly elections among the two coalitions used to be very small (less than three percentage points), which has almost doubled in the last two elections. LDF wins big and loses narrowly in Kerala assembly elections. For example, in a 140-member assembly, LDF won 99 seats in 2021, 91 in 2016, and 98 in 2006, and lost narrowly in 2011 with 68 seats. Also, there are 89 assembly seats that have remained with the same coalition in the last three elections. LDF has retained 50, and UDF has never lost 39. This suggests that UDF has a much tougher battle than is being made out to be.

LDF under Vijayan retains a credible narrative on governance. Its welfare programs and crisis management during floods and pandemics helped it win in 2021. While there is a visible fatigue due to economic stagnation and concerns over administrative efficiency in the second term, he still commands more popularity in the state than any other face UDF may want to project. A victory for the Left Front in Kerala is existential after being completely routed in West Bengal and Tripura.

Kerala's bi-nodal politics and social development agendas of both coalitions in the govt have, largely, obscured a deeply fragmented electoral geography. This poll may bring it into sharp focus. Northern Kerala remains UDF's fortress, especially in Muslim-majority districts where the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) continues to anchor its dominance. Southern Kerala, with a more Hindu population, has largely voted for LDF, and Central Kerala, which is socially more diverse, has been the real battlefield. LDF has largely drawn its support among the Hindu voters, rural and lower income. UDF has long relied on a consolidated Muslim-Christian social coalition. The increasing consolidation of Muslim votes in favour of Congress, is likely to push counter-polarisation among the Christians and Hindus in certain pockets.

It is here that an insurgent BJP may be a headache for both coalitions by adding a lot of uncertainty to predictable patterns of political mobilisation. Despite having some organisational presence, especially in more urban pockets, BJP has been a distant third pole so far. But its vote share has steadily increased in the past decade. It won the Thrissur LS seat in 2024, came second in Thiruvananthapuram, and registered impressive vote counts in many other seats. More recently, during the 2025 local body elections, it was able to win the Thiruvananthapuram mayoral election for the first time.

Rather than relying solely on its traditional Hindu consolidation strategy, BJP this time is making a cross-community outreach. Its pitch to Christian voters is carefully constructed by emphasising shared concerns around minority security and identity politics, and high-visibility infrastructure commitments. The local leadership is engaging with church leaders, particularly in central Kerala. This may not lead to any significant shift, but can disrupt the outcome in some constituencies.

This makes the 2026 assembly elections historic in the sense that, while the results next month may still produce a familiar outcome — an LDF or UDF govt —the path to that outcome could transform Kerala's political landscape. ■

Verma is Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi. Views expressed are personal

Not a question of black or white, but whether I was good enough on court

*When former cricketer Laxman Sivaramakrishnan stepped down from the BCCI commentary panel, citing concerns over colourism and unequal opportunity, it reopened an uncomfortable conversation around bias in Indian sport. For tennis icon **Vijay Amritraj,** that is familiar territory. In an interview with **Prajwal Hegde,** he reflects on navigating prejudice, his mother's influence, and the contrasting personalities of Alcaraz and Sinner*

FOR THE RECORD

Have you experienced discrimination for your skin colour?

Some commentators have said they don't like me. I'm not quite sure if that entails a colour, race or religion bar. It seems like, hey, I don't like you for whatever reason, but the greatest thing about sport has been the quality of merit. I don't know about this particular case (Sivaramakrishnan). It's hard to imagine someone was left out of the main stage or of an interview segment because of his colour. The quality of commentary, presentation, coming back with immediate reaction to the player's answers is a talent on its own. Not every great player has become a good commentator or presenter. It is hard for me to think of it that way, but the sad part is, if he did go through something, it can affect you personally. I certainly feel for him. It does things to you internally that a lot of us won't know. The question is, how do you get out of it? This is not only your profession, your bread and butter, but it is also a game that you love.

How does one get over a bias like that?

Let me try to explain it with an anecdote. I was playing a tournament in New Hampshire (New England) in 1973. Rod Laver and Jimmy Connors were playing too. First, tennis was a white sport (back then), secondly, the entire hotel, where the tournament was held, was full of elderly white Americans. Dinner at night was a coat-and-tie event. I was 19 and wasn't able to wear coats and ties constantly, so I would come down for dinner in a Madras shirt, jeans and kolhapuri chappals. As I walked across, I felt the eyes of the room pierce the back of my head. Then, I won on Monday, Tuesday and in the quarters I beat Laver after being down several match points. In the final, I ended up playing Connors, who had me 2-5 in the third set, with two match points. There were about 8,000 people in that beautiful setting, all white, and I would say only two in the crowd were for Connors. I ended up winning and when I came for dinner that evening, several of the people in the room were wearing chappals. I draw that analogy for the simple reason that there are lots of things that can be overcome by the way you are and the way you're able to get into the minds of people and what they like to believe.

What did that 19-year-old tell himself when he looked in the mirror on all those evenings in New Hampshire?

Coat-and-tie was the expectation, it was my fault that I didn't have it. That's economics, right? You know, where you come from, the way you are, and the belief you have in yourself, the dreams that get you this far. You're coming from the late-60s, early-70s Madras to a world that you are not exposed to at all. Then to go there and compete with the best without having anything of what they had or what they grew up with...That's what sports taught me, that you can compete at the highest level, because I'm good enough to do that. It wasn't a question of whether I was black or white, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, but whether I was good enough.

Did you feel the colour of your skin more in India than you did outside?

The honest answer to that would probably be, if I did, I didn't know it. My mother used to always tell us, don't ever complain, just make sure that you're the best. So, in '72 on Christmas Day, when I won the Nationals for the first time beating Ramanathan Krishnan in Kolkata, and Anand (Amritraj) and I won the doubles, and my younger brother, Ashok, won the juniors all on the same day, it didn't matter what colour or religion or language you spoke. I think mom's words are very relevant.

My mother was a wonderfully ordinary person, who did extraordinary things with my life. How do people like that get the opportunity to tell a child who wasn't good enough that you have to be good enough to be able to do this? So, I think, yes, I'm sure it was there at some point in time, but I was so focused on being the best in what we were doing.

What did you make of Carlos Alcaraz's outburst during the Miami Open?

You look at Alcaraz and (Jannik) Sinner, they are both world number ones and have a different way about them. The way they play, the way they are on court and their interaction with spectators. Alcaraz is a very, very nice version of Connors, in the way he interacts with the crowd, smiles, and the variety in his game. He's got everything and draws a comparison with Roger Federer.

When you look at a guy like Sinner, I think, he put in even more work to be a world number one, like (Ivan) Lendl. I think from Alcaraz's perspective, if he gets a little up and down in his mind, it is good for him to take a break, more than it is for Sinner. Two different personalities, you got to give them that leeway.

Hormuz free passage is over, and so is the era of global cooperation

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

The next twists in the Gulf war are unpredictable. US President Trump has threatened to land troops to take Kharg Island, Iran's main export hub, despite the enormous risks involved. He has also threatened to blast Iran's power stations and oil infrastructure if it does not call an end to the war on US terms.

However, many Republicans, including Vice President J D Vance, want the US to declare victory and exit the Gulf in a hurry. The war has sent the price of petrol in the US up from an average of $3/gallon to $4/gallon. Diesel is up 25%. The war is unpopular — net voter support is minus 32%, according to the latest CNN/SSRS poll.

Globally, the war has hit prices of everything from transport fuels and fertilisers to aluminium, plastics, petrochemicals, LNG, LPG, and helium. Global stocks are high enough to shrug off the impact of a short war, but a prolonged conflict will mean high inflation, leading to a Republican Party debacle in the mid-term Congressional elections in Nov, when Democrats hope to win both Houses. To avoid this outcome, Trump's latest speech suggests he will withdraw in a few weeks, leaving Gulf shipping at the mercy of Iran.

The days of free passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz are over — permanently. And it may not stop there. Once global shipping views tolls in Hormuz as "business as usual," other global choke points will ask, "Why not me too?" These choke points include the Straits of Malacca, the Taiwan Strait, the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, the Sunda Strait, and so on. For hundreds of years earlier, Pax Britannica and Pax Americana ensured freedom of navigation in international waters. But not anymore.

Iran has been able to paralyse thousands of ships in the Gulf by merely threatening to hit them with drones, mines, or missiles. It has hit no more than 25 ships so far. But hundreds of ship crews, shipping companies, and insurance companies have all declared that without a US guarantee — which Trump has vetoed — there can be no return to normal.

Some ships have paid as much as $2 million to Iran for safe passage. This is not an entirely new practice—shipping companies have paid off Somali pirates in the past. Iran needs big money to rebuild facilities destroyed by Trump, and tolls will carry the political lesson that it will no longer follow free-passage norms set by Western powers.

Trump has told the Europeans and Asians to look out for themselves and police the Gulf if they so choose. But European leaders recoil in horror at the very idea. They have neither the military capacity, political guts, nor public backing for such adventures.

Our foreign policy experts have long resented the boorishness, arrogance, and bullying by the US as the non-Communist hegemon after World War II. But unlike the earlier European variety, American hegemony did not seek just national power and pelf. Despite much hypocrisy, the US presided over the creation of rules-based institutions for the good of the whole world, not just itself. This included the United Nations and its many arms, the World Bank, IMF, WTO, and specialised institutions for everything from civil aviation to patents. The US did not seek a larger slice of the global pie; it sought to grow the pie itself. That era of altruistic hegemony created unprecedented wealth across the globe.

Trump has now abandoned altruistic hegemony for narrow national gain. He says, quite accurately, that the US bore the lion's share of cost and responsibility for policing the post-World War II system, while others enjoyed a subsidised ride. He deplores US altruism as misguided, and now demands payback from others. He wants to increase the US share of the pie and not worry about increasing the global pie. In this, he has touched a sensitive chord with voters. The US is unlikely to revert to altruistic hegemony even after Trump demits office.

The era of global cooperation will not collapse, but will steadily erode. Free naval passage will be only one of many arrangements to suffer.

Indian foreign policy experts long wished for multipolarity in place of the two poles of the Cold War. Foreign minister Jaishankar says multipolarity will give India more space for manoeuvre. True, but others will also get more space for actions that may seriously discomfit India. Having tasted blood, Iran is not going to go back to free naval passage. Other countries may well follow suit. And yet others will seek to profit by violating yet more norms. The global outlook stands permanently damaged. ■

New digital rules risk diluting Supreme Court safeguards

BY INVITATION

NIKHIL PAHWA APAR GUPTA

NET EFFECT: With so many takedown orders, platforms end up censoring by default

Over the past month, several internet users have received notifications from X or Instagram that some of their posts, or even complete accounts, have been censored and blocked. Facebook pages with millions of followers have been banned. It's not just users. Supabase, a service developers use for building apps, found itself blocked in India, without notice. It was reinstalled only after developers complained, and Supabase tagged the IT minister on X. But why is this happening?

In March 2015, the Supreme Court delivered what remains the foundational verdict on online speech in this country. In Shreya Singhal v. Union of India, the court struck down the breathtakingly overbroad section 66A of the IT Act, which had been used to jail people for Facebook posts. But the case did something equally important that gets less attention. The court strengthened the safe harbour provision under section 79, which protects platforms from liability for what users say online. Until then, the provision's ambiguity was being exploited to pressure platforms into pulling down even perfectly legal speech by sending informal requests.

The SC also upheld the blocking powers under section 69A, reasoning that it came with structural safeguards: reasons recorded in writing, orders issued at least by a joint secretary-level officer, examined by a review committee. Crucially, the court said that the affected user, if identifiable, needed to be informed and given a hearing. In the eleven years since the judgment, these protections have been dismantled, and a digital censorship infrastructure has emerged.

First, amendments to the IT Rules in 2021 expanded the scope of section 79, bringing digital news outlets under a provision that doesn't regulate them. Despite two high court orders staying these provisions, the govt circumvented them via notifications and administrative practices.

Two, the home ministry's Sahyog portal functions, without parliamentary sanction, as a hotline from govt to platforms for takedown orders under Section 79. Thirty-three states, seven central agencies, and 72 companies are onboarded. Users neither receive notice nor are orders provided on request. X Corp told the Karnataka high court it received 29,118 such requests in the first half of 2025, roughly 160 a day. At this volume, no platform can assess legality, and platforms end up censoring by default to preserve safe harbour, precisely what the SC had prevented in the Shreya Singhal case.

Three, the amendments to IT Rules in Feb 2026 compressed the compliance window for blocking orders from 36 to three hours, the shortest in the world. News reports suggest a further reduction to one hour. This applies to all speech without exemptions for satire, journalism, or political criticism, and erasing any distinction between emergency and contestable orders. Meanwhile, blocking orders and review committee proceedings remain secret. At this scale and speed, platforms almost always act first, think never, censor always.

Four, the architecture has widened laterally: more govt agencies now have the power to block speech under section 69A. The proposed amendments to rule 8(1) would extend oversight of the ministry of information and broadcasting from registered publishers to all users posting news content or commenting on them, including ordinary Indians sharing videos of potholed roads. This mirrors the draft Broadcasting Bill, 2024, which was withdrawn after public condemnation.

Five, sections 70B, 69 and 75 are being deployed by different govt authorities to demand extensive user data from social media platforms, without adequate legal grounds and oversight. This will lend itself to self-censorship of legitimate speech.

Six, regulatory changes are accelerating. The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act delegates vast rule-making powers to the executive. The IT Rules themselves have been amended at least annually since 2021. Govt's Fact Check Unit was struck down by the Bombay high court in 2024, barely a year after its notification. Courts can't keep pace: by the time one provision is struck down, two replace it. The current IT Rules consultations have a 15-day deadline. The implementation timeline for the last one was 10 days. When the IT secretary reportedly says that platforms should have started preparing to implement based on consultation drafts, it appears that outcomes are predetermined.

The outcome: Censorship powers have been decentralised while delivery of takedown orders is centralised through a single portal. Scale has increased, and timeline crunched, limiting the scope of legal review. Keen to preserve market access in India, platforms comply. Citizens whose speech is restricted receive no notice, no hearing, no reasons, and neither govt nor platforms can be held to account by a legal system being outpaced by regulatory agility. It's time to sound the alarm if we don't want this infrastructure for censorship to become permanent. ■

Pahwa is founder, MediaNama and Gupta is founder director of the Internet Freedom Foundation

WORD DROP

LILY PADDING

What does the image of a frog hopping from one lily pad to another have to do with workplaces? Well, more and more youngsters are now adopting the amphibious style to navigate their career paths, often switching roles within the same industry or experimenting with side projects before attempting a complete pivot. The trend resonates particularly

iStock

with Gen Zs navigating uncertainty in a fast-changing world, where economic instability, burnout, and shifting definitions of success have made linear paths and loyalty less appealing. Data from human resources consulting firm Randstad shows that the average tenure of a Gen Z employee in the first five years of their career is just 1.1 years, compared with 1.8 years for millennials and almost three years for older generations.

INBOX

NO AMERICAN WAY

Apropos of 'Iran war shows...' (ATM, Mar 29), we can't go the American way. Here, welfare, employment, and development spending can't be compromised at the altar of a substantial increase in the defence budget. Becoming self-reliant, increased allocation in R&D and pushing private players to participate can help boost preparedness.

—**Chanchal Nandy,** Durgapur

Email your letters to the editor at *sunday.times@timesofindia.com* with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

Iran crisis: Lessons for India from a war nobody wanted

BY INVITATION

AUSAF SAYEED

One month into the US-Israeli assault on Iran, the conflict has produced outcomes few anticipated or desired. Indirect peace talks between Washington and Tehran—facilitated through Oman and Qatar—were still active when the strikes began on February 28. Goalposts shifted weekly: from degrading Iran's nuclear programme to neutralising proxy networks or enforcing regime change, before narrowing to a belated priority—restoring navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway Iran subsequently mined because of the strikes. The result is self-inflicted irony: the war's only surviving objective — keeping Hormuz open — is precisely what the war has undone.

In his prime-time address, President Trump declared that the core strategic objectives of Operation Epic Fury were nearing completion and conditioned any ceasefire on Iran reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran's response was unambiguous: Iran's foreign ministry said no negotiations were underway and that the country would defend itself for as long as strikes continued. The gap between Washington's proclaimed victory and Tehran's determination to fight captures the war's fundamental paradox. The likely outcome is a face-saving framework—supervised restrictions on enrichment, a partial reopening of Hormuz, a US declaration of success—leaving every underlying tension unresolved.

UNDER THE PUMP: The energy crisis has prompted India to diversify its sources

The conflict has exposed fractures in every alliance it was supposed to fortify. Most NATO allies declined direct involvement, prompting Trump to question the utility of the alliance.

The GCC states found themselves in the most invidious position: while Gulf leaders publicly called for diplomacy, Saudi Arabia and the UAE privately urged Washington to press the campaign until Iran's capabilities were decisively degraded. These same states bore the brunt of Iranian retaliatory strikes on their cities and oil infrastructure for hosting US bases they could neither vacate nor protect. The promised US security umbrella proved porous; Saudi Arabia's Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Pakistan reflects the hedging now underway, while China's Gulf engagement remains anchored in economics rather than military commitments.

Compounding Gulf unease is Prime Minister Netanyahu's declared ambition to make Israel the "region's superpower". He has repeatedly invoked the "Greater Israel" vision, consolidating control over southern Lebanon and expanding settlements under the cover of the war. For Gulf capitals, replacing one existential threat with another—a regionally dominant Israel armed with permanent American legitimacy—has sharpened the strategic calculus.

In a strong pushback, Turkish president Erdogan strongly opposed US-Israeli attempts to recruit PKK and PJAK-linked Kurdish fighters as ground proxies inside Iran, warning that ethnic destabilisation in Tehran would have cascading regional consequences.

The war has laid bare the calculations of every major power. Russia benefits from the conflict continuing every week: surging revenues and attention diverted from Ukraine.

China is the quiet net beneficiary—buying discounted Iranian crude, settling in yuan rather than petrodollars, and watching rivals exhaust themselves in a war Beijing neither initiated nor needs to fight. The near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz triggered the most severe energy shock since 1973, accelerating a structural shift: Gulf bypass pipelines are being expanded, LNG terminals are being fast-tracked, and alternative supply corridors are attracting fresh investment.

For India, the war has been a crisis, an opportunity, and a reflection of its foreign policy. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 50% of India's crude imports are carried, triggered a severe energy crisis and prompted a major restructuring of its energy security options: diversifying sources, expanding strategic reserves, and giving a fresh impetus to domestic exploration. Crude imports from Russia surged to a post-sanctions record of over two million barrels per day in March, while the US—now India's second-largest LNG supplier—continued delivering record volumes to Indian terminals.

India navigated the crisis with tactical dexterity, though the diplomatic arithmetic is less straightforward. India co-sponsored UNSC Resolution 2817—adopted on March 11 with 135 co-sponsors, a Security Council record—which condemned Iran's attacks on GCC states in the strongest terms but made no reference to the US-Israeli strikes that triggered the conflict.

As India remained silent on the violation of Iran's territorial integrity, capitals in the Global South observed how a nation claiming non-alignment's moral heritage exhibited a foreign policy driven more by constraints than by convictions.

The way forward does not require an impossible choice between Tehran and Riyadh, or between Washington and strategic autonomy. It requires consistency: applying the same standards of territorial integrity and international law regardless of the power concerned, and deploying those relationships not to hedge alone, but to shape outcomes. India's value as a partner rests on its perceived independence.

Preserving that perception, in word as well as deed, is not merely a moral aspiration, it is a national interest. The war nobody wanted has produced an opening that no one anticipated—for a credible, principled voice to help build the architecture of a durable peace in an emerging world order. That role is India's to claim, or to forfeit. ■

Sayeed is former ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Yemen

SNAP SHOTS

Vishvanath shocks world champ Sanzhar

Rising pugilist Vishvanath Suresh stunned reigning world champion and World No. 1 Sanzhar Tashkenbay of Kazakhstan to advance to the men's 50kg class semifinals of the Asian Boxing Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on Saturday. Earlier, Suresh had defeated Bekzat Ergeshov of Kyrgyzstan 5-0 in a unanimous decision from the judges.

Swami bags bronze: Shyam Sunder Swami secured a bronze medal for India after edging past senior teammate and Paris Paralympic bronze medalist Rakesh Kumar in a closely-fought playoff at the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok. Swami prevailed 143 (10*) to 143 (9) in the bronze medal match of the compound men's individual event, with the contest being decided on a tie-break after both archers were locked at identical scores.

Athletes told to get AFI approval before sponsorships: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has made it mandatory for the track and field athletes to get its prior approval before entering into agreements with sponsors, including private entities. "... keeping in mind the best interests of athletes and sponsors, AFI has made it mandatory for athletes to obtain prior approval from the Athletics Federation of India before entering into any agreement or contractual arrangement with any sponsor or third party," a circular from the national federation said.

Oscar retires with heart problem: Former Brazil international Oscar has been forced to retire at the age of 34 with cardiac issues, his club Sao Paulo confirmed on Saturday. The attacking midfielder was hospitalised for five days in November after fainting during a routine medical and has not played since.

Pegula in semis: Top seed Jessica Pegula once again fought back from a set down to reach the WTA Charleston Open semifinals with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win against Russia's Diana Shnaider on Friday. Pegula will face fellow American Iva Jovic, who beat Russian Anna Kalinskaya 6-3, 6-4. Meanwhile, Thiago Tirante stunned top-seeded Ben Shelton 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 6-4 on Friday to book a semifinal showdown with friend and fellow Argentinian Roman Burruchaga in Houston, Texas.

Ex-state player Claudius no more: Former state hockey player T Cladius, 58, passed away after a prolonged illness on Saturday. The player, who featured for Primrose Hockey Club initially, represented the state junior and senior teams besides playing for AGORC for almost 15 years. The Karnataka State Hockey Association mourned his demise.

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RIZVI LEADS FROM THE FRONT

Smashes 51-Ball 90 On Sluggish Pitch To Help Capitals Trump Mumbai

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Tarun Rawat

TOP KNOCK: Sameer Rizvi celebrates after completing his half-century

New Delhi: Sameer Rizvi has finally arrived on the big stage, two years after being identified by IPL scouts. On Saturday evening, on a Kotla pitch that sucked the life out of the match, he injected adrenaline with a 51-ball 90 as Delhi Capitals cruised past the 163-run target set by Mumbai Indians with 11 balls and six wickets to spare to go to the top of the standings. The 22-year-old Rizwan has now played the lead role in two consecutive tricky chases following his impressive performance against LSG earlier.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

The afternoon started with the Delhi crowd going berserk after seeing Rohit Sharma taking guard. Capitals have been yearning for slower pitches since the last season to aid their spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Vipraj Nigam. Rohit keep the scoreboard moving, with frequent boundaries, even as run-scoring looked tough on the dry pitch.

The crowd roared with each boundary that Rohit hit till he was caught at extra-cover off Axar for 35 off 26 in the 10th over. Scoring became tough after Rohit's dismissal even as Suryakumar Yadav grafted a 36-ball 51. MI's 162/6 looked like a challenging score before Capitals opener Pathum Nissanka went hard at the top of the chase to set it up for Rizvi to eventually bat MI out of the game.

MI skipper for the match Suryakumar Yadav, standing in for an unwell Hardik Pandya, was lost for answers during the counter-attack. The crowd remained flat for much of the match before Rizvi took over once Nissanka departed for 44 off 30 balls, with the scoreboard reading 73/3 in the 10th over. Rizvi went on a rampage. In the next 6.3 overs, DC smashed 78 runs with David Miller's only job feeding the strike to Rizvi. Rizvi, coming out to bat as an Impact Substitute, went about dismantling MI's bowling with consummate ease.

Rizvi brought shots that broke the rules of conventional batting. He knew the MI pacers would hit the hard lengths just like DC had done it. So, he cleared his front foot and went about slapping the ball through the off-side. Leg-spinner Mayank Markande looked completely out of his depth as Rizvi negated the turn by skipping down the track and smacking him down the ground. Rizvi's approach of using his feet against the spinners was in sharp contrast to the MI batters, who were largely rooted to the crease.

Rizvi has now cracked the code in these short tricky chases. Like he did in Lucknow in the previous match, he doesn't get edgy at the top of his innings. The string of dot balls doesn't perturb him. He waits to find his rhythm on these pitches. He respects the established international bowlers, like he did against Jasprit Bumrah and Mitchell Santner. **Brief scores: Mumbai Indians: 162/6 in 20 overs** (Suryakumar Yadav 51, Rohit Sharma 35, Naman Dhir 28; Mukesh Kumar 2-26) **lost to Delhi Capitals: 164/4 in 18.1 overs** (Sameer Rizvi 90, Pathum Nissanka 44).

Bishnoi and Jurel put on a Royal show

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Yogesh Chawda

FINE SHOW: Dhruv Jurel

Ahmedabad: Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (4/31) induced a middle-order collapse that broke the backbone of Gujarat Titans' middle order. Despite a lower-order resistance by Kagiso Rabada (23 not out) and Rashid Khan (24), fine death-overs bowling by Jofra Archer and Tushar Deshpande ensured the Royals edged Titans by six runs here on Saturday.

The Royals have two wins from as many matches, while the Titans, for the first time, lost their opening two matches. The Titans seemed to be cruising with Sudharsan (73 off 44b; 9x4, 3x6), first with Kumar Kushagra (18) and then with Jos Buttler (26), keeping them in the chase by scoring at 10 runs an over.

MATCH REPORT

However, Bishnoi's googly undid the Tamil Nadu batter before he scalped Glenn Phillips (3), Washington Sundar (4) and Rahul Tewatia (12) in quick succession to derail the chase.

This was after southpaws Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Yashasvi Jaiswal (55 off 36b; 6x4, 3x6) punched holes in the bowling plans of Titans with blazing ball-striking in the Powerplay. Number three Dhruv Jurel (75 off 42b; 5x4, 5x6) accelerated in the latter half of the innings to propel Royals to 210/6 after winning the toss.

The decision to bat first paid dividends as, after two relatively sedate overs, both openers attacked new-ball bowlers Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada to compile 69 in the Powerplay.

Brief scores: Rajasthan Royals: 210/6 in 20 overs (Dhruv Jurel 75, Yashasvi Jaiswal 55; Kagiso Rabada 2-42) **bt Gujarat Titans: 204/8 in 20 overs** (Sai Sudharsan 73; Ravi Bishnoi 4-41).

Certanity for main event

Hyderabad: Laxman Singh-trained Certanity is expected to win the Kamareddy Plate over 1400 metres, the main event on the concluding day of the winter season here on Sunday. First race at 2.55 pm. **SELECTIONS: 1. Circar Plate 1100M:** Ek 1, Midnight Beauty 2. **2. Kinnerasani Plate (Div I) 1100M:** Cosmic Gift 1, Modin 2. **3. Kinnerasani Plate (Div II) 1100M:** Vinfast 1, Rajendra 2. **4. Rock Heaven Plate 1400M:** Feel The Magic 1, Aquatone 2. **5. Recommender Plate 1400M:** Special Star 1, Mystical Dawn 2. **6. Kamareddy Plate 1400M:** Certanity 1, Racing Ruler 2. **7. Aristocrat Plate 1200M:** Natu Natu 1, Lego 2. **8. Kuntala Plate 1400M:** Deccan Ranger 1, Bold Indian 2. **Day's best:** Certanity. **Double:** Special Star & Natu Natu. **1st Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8. **1st Mini jackpot:** 2, 3, 4 & 5; **2nd Mini jackpot:** 5, 6, 7 & 8. **1st Treble:** 1, 2, & 3; **2nd Treble:** 3, 4, & 5; **3rd Treble:** 6, 7 & 8.

HORSE RACING

NORTHERN WAVES WINS

Northern Waves (Ajay Kumar up) won the Brave Dancer Plate over 1200 metres, the main event at the races in Hyderabad on Saturday. G Shasikanth trains the winner. TNN

Mallorca stun Real Madrid

Reuters

Vedat Muriqi snatched Mallorca a surprise 2-1 La Liga win over Real Madrid on Saturday to deal Los Blancos a significant blow in the Spanish title race. Alvaro Arbeloa's side thought they had rescued a point after Eder Militao nodded home with two minutes remaining before Muriqi pounced in stoppage time to help the hosts climb to 17th. Arbeloa started the game with Vinicius Junior on the bench, with Tuesday's Champions League quarterfinal against Bayern Munich in mind. Madrid lacked spark in the first half, creating few openings of note. The best was for top scorer Kylian Mbappe, fit after a knee sprain that has troubled him for months.

FOOTBALL

CITY HAMMER LIVERPOOL

Erling Haaland scored a hat-trick as Manchester City crushed Liverpool 4-0 in their FA Cup quarterfinal at the Etihad Stadium. Liverpool did well in the opening half-hour with Mohamed Salah wasting an early chance, but once Haaland scored from the spot in the 37th minute after a foul on Nico O'Reilly their resistance crumbled. Haaland netted his second two minutes into first-half stoppage time with a header from Antoine Semenyo cross. Semenyo got on the scoresheet himself five minutes after the break, latching on to a ball in behind from Rayan Cherki and chipping it beautifully past Giorgi Mamardashvili, and Haaland completed his treble with a shot off the underside of the crossbar in the 57th minute.

BAYERN PREVAIL

Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich scored three times in last nine minutes of the game to come from two goals behind and snatch a 3-2 win at Freiburg.

Select results: Spanish league: Mallorca 2 (Morlanes 42, Muriqi 90+1) bt Real Madrid 1 (Militao 88). **English FA Cup (QF):** Manchester City 4 (Haaland 39-pen, 45+2, 57, Semenyo 50) bt Liverpool 0. **German league:** Freiburg 2 (Manzambi 46, Hoeler 71) lost to Bayern Munich 3 (Bischof 81, 90+2, Karl 90+9). AGENCIES

Pragg draws; no stopping Sindarov

Uzbek Jumps To 5.5 Points From 6 Games; Vaishali beats Lagno

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FIDE

Javokhir Sindarov

R Praggnanandhaa was two points and four 'net wins' away from leader Javokhir Sindarov at the start of the sixth round of the Candidates chess tournament in Cyprus on Saturday. Though the Indian surprised Hikaru Nakamura with the choice of a Nimzo-Indian Defence and showed the intent to complicate matters along the way, the game petered out to a draw after a threefold repetition in 23 moves.

CANDIDATES CHESS

As bad luck would have it, Sindarov kept on winning and making it more and more difficult for his rivals! Fabiano Caruana (4) could not beat Andrey Esipenko and now trails Sindarov by 1.5 points. Pragg is 2.5 points behind. The Uzbek World Cup winner, the youngest player in the field, like D Gukesh was when he won the Candidates and world title in 2024, defeated Wei Yi with the black pieces to jump to 5.5 points.

The 20-year-old has now beaten world No. 3 Fabiano Caruana, world No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura and Chinese stalwart Wei Yi in successive games. All three wins were his first career victories over these rivals in classical chess. Former five-time world champion V Anand told the FIDE webcast, "It's just that Sindarov's opponents are not able to play a normal game anymore."

Pragg's sister R Vaishali and Divya Deshmukh (3 points each) completed a great day for black pieces as they defeated overnight leader Kateryna Lagno (3) and Kazakh Bibisara Assaubayeva (2.5) respectively. Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine defeated co-leader Zhu Jiner of China with the black pieces and moved to four points in the women's section earlier in the day.

Vaishali's was a wild game and Divya came up with a nice finish in the queen, rook and pawn endgame. Vaishali finally found a safe square for her king and threatened great damage on the rival's h1 square, with queen and rook controlling the g- and h- files (two pawns up but a piece down).

The Tan Zhongyi (2.5) vs Aleksandra Goryachkina (3) game ended in a draw.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Gates Entry Have Been Changed look at Map For Details

STAND INDEX

A STAND ENTRY GATE: E1 INSIDE GATE: G6	B STAND ENTRY GATE: E23 INSIDE GATE: G7	C STAND ENTRY GATE: E19 INSIDE GATE: G9
D CORPORATE ENTRY GATE: E2 OR E3 INSIDE GATE: G5	D LOFT ENTRY GATE: E2 OR E3 INSIDE GATE: G5	DIAMOND BOX ENTRY GATE: E8 INSIDE GATE: G1
E EXECUTIVE LOUNGE ENTRY GATE: E2 OR E3 INSIDE GATE: G5	E STAND ENTRY GATE: E17 INSIDE GATE: G11	F - BLOCK 1 ENTRY GATE: E16 INSIDE GATE: G13
F - BLOCK 2 ENTRY GATE: E16 INSIDE GATE: G13	GRAND TERRACE ENTRY GATE: E10 INSIDE GATE: G10	H UPPER ENTRY GATE: E17 INSIDE GATE: G12
M1 ENTRY GATE: E11 OR E12 INSIDE GATE: G15	M2 ENTRY GATE: E11 OR E12 INSIDE GATE: G15	M2 ANNEXE ENTRY GATE: E13 INSIDE GATE: G14
M3 ENTRY GATE: E13 INSIDE GATE: G14	M4 ENTRY GATE: E13 INSIDE GATE: G14	MEDIA ENTRY GATE: E11 INSIDE GATE: G15
P1 ENTRY GATE: E8 INSIDE GATE: G3A	P1 ANNEXE ENTRY GATE: E5 INSIDE GATE: G3	P2 ENTRY GATE: E8 INSIDE GATE: G2
P3 - BLOCK 1 ENTRY GATE: E2 OR E3 INSIDE GATE: G4	P3 - BLOCK 2 ENTRY GATE: E2 OR E3 INSIDE GATE: G4	P CORPORATE ENTRY GATE: E8 INSIDE GATE: G2
P LOFT ENTRY GATE: E8 INSIDE GATE: G3A	P TERRACE ENTRY GATE: E8 INSIDE GATE: G2	PLATINUM LOUNGE ENTRY GATE: E22 INSIDE GATE: G8

LEGEND
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G INSIDE GATE
MEDICAL TRIAGE
AMBULANCE
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—Shreyas Iyer | PBKS SKIPPER

CAN CHENNAI SHAKE OFF WOEFUL START?

After Two Losses In A Row, Super Kings Have Task Cut Out Against Formidable RCB Today

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Bengaluru: The southern derby between RCB and CSK has long been one of the IPL's marquee contests. Of the 35 meetings between the two sides, CSK have won 21 but the narrative shifted last season when RCB, en route to their maiden title, completed a double over the five-time champions, a commanding 50-run win in Chennai followed by a thrilling two-run victory at home.

The shift in results has mirrored a change in fortunes. RCB, rebuilt around performance and analytics, finally broke their title drought while CSK, in a transitional phase, have exited in the league stage in each of the past two seasons.

On Sunday, the two sides meet again at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium under contrasting circumstances. RCB come into the contest on the back of an emphatic win over SRH in their opener while the Ruturaj Gaikwad-led CSK arrive with two defeats in a row, including a five-wicket loss to SRH at home on Friday.

IPL PREVIEW

There is also a gap in preparation. RCB have had a week to recover and regroup. CSK will take the field less than 48 hours after their previous outing.

On paper, RCB appear the more settled unit. Their top order looks formidable, with Virat Kohli and Phil Salt complemented by the in-form Devdutt Padikkal.

The middle order, featuring skipper Rajat Patidar, Jitesh Sharma, Tim David and Romario Shepherd, provides both stability and firepower.

In the bowling department, New Zealand pacer Jacob Duffy impressed on debut in the absence of Josh Hazlewood, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar offered steady support. RCB could consider adding a left-arm seam option in Mangesh Yadav while spinners Krunal Pandya and Suyash Sharma will look to improve after a lukewarm start.

CSK, once known as the daddy's arm, now features a younger line-up supported by a few seasoned names such as Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shivam Dube. However, their batting has yet to click consistently. would Gaikwad will need to lead from the front while the likes of Ayush Mhatre — who struck a fluent 78 against SRH — will be expected to build on recent form. The teenager returns to a venue where he announced his arrival last season with a blistering 94.

The bigger concern for the visitors, though, is their bowling. In two matches, CSK have conceded 338 runs in 30.5 overs, with both pace and spin units struggling for control. The new-ball pair of Khaleel Ahmed and Matt Henry have been expensive, allowing opposition batters to settle early while the spin attack has also lacked penetration. Their usage of resources raises eyebrows.

At a compact venue like the Chinnaswamy, and against an in-form RCB batting unit, the margin for error for CSK's bowlers will be minimal. The hosts, who are trying to strengthen their fortunes at the fortress, will be keen to maintain their winning streak at home.

Pics: Syed Asif

GEARING UP: Romario Shepherd (left) and skipper Rajat Patidar during a training session in Bengaluru on Saturday

Devdutt Padikkal

Virat Kohli

WEATHER
26°C

NUMBERS GAME

3 Royal Challengers Bengaluru have won their last three IPL fixtures vs CSK- by 27 runs in Bengaluru on May 18, 2024; by 50 runs in Chennai on March 28 and by 2 runs in Bengaluru on May 3 - the last two in 2025.

1 Bhuvneshwar Kumar (199 wickets at 27.35 in 191 matches) needs one more wicket to reach 200 and become only the second bowler to achieve the milestone in IPL history. Yuzvendra Chahal (224 wickets at 22.68 in 176 matches) is the leading wicket-taker.

95 The highest individual score for Chennai Super Kings against RCB in the IPL is 95 — jointly held by Shivam Dube (46 balls, DY Patil Stadium, April 12, 2022*) and Murali Vijay (Chennai, May 28, 2011).

21 Chennai Super Kings have won 21 of their 35 IPL matches against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (lost 13, no result 1) — their most against any opponent. They have 20 wins against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

The absence of MS Dhoni, a central figure in this rivalry for almost two decades, takes away some sheen, but the intensity remains intact. With cloudy conditions forecast, both teams will also keep an eye on the weather.

TIME TO ASK APOLLO
LOVE FRIED FOOD?
It can raise heart disease risk by 20-30%. Rethink choices.
Scan to protect your heart health
For any Health Query Chat with
Ask Apollo
Apollo At Clinical excellence for healthier India

'Our sessions have been high intensity'

Manuja.Veerappa
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: While most teams criss-crossed the country in the opening week of the IPL, defending champions RCB have enjoyed a relatively relaxed build-up. After a six-wicket win over SRH last Saturday, RCB have had a full week to regroup ahead of Sunday's clash against Chennai Super Kings. Vice-captain Jitesh Sharma, however, insisted that the break has not dulled the team's edge.

"Even during the break, we played a practice game, so we are close to match intensity. Our training sessions have also been at a high intensity," the wicket-keeper-batter said.

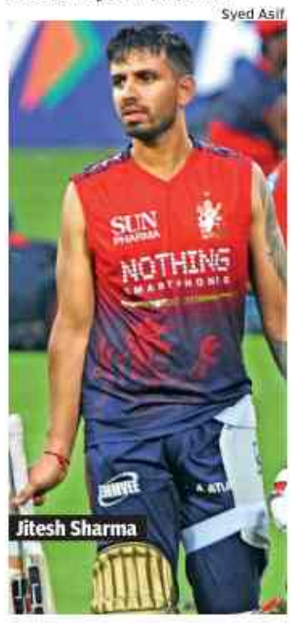
RCB have used the extended gap to simulate high-pressure scenarios in training, ensuring players remain mentally and tactically sharp. "We tried to create pressure situations for everyone and replicate the worst possible scenarios. It was about preparing tactically and intelligently, like we would in a game. Everyone is in a good space — physically fit and fresh," Jitesh said.

Beyond training, the players have also had time to recharge. Apart from commercial commitments and personal routines, some members of the squad stepped away briefly, with Jitesh and skipper Rajat Patidar visiting Tirupati to seek blessings. Despite RCB carrying momentum into the fixture, and having enjoyed recent success against CSK, Jitesh downplayed any talk of favourites.

"As a player and as a unit, we focus on one game at a time rather than records. We are trying to stay in the present and plan around our strengths and weaknesses," he said.

With both teams heading into the high-profile southern derby under contrasting circumstances, RCB will look to make the most of their preparation and rest advantage, while CSK aim to arrest their early-season slide.

Syed Asif



Jitesh Sharma

GALLERY

Gritty Kochhar stays in top-5

Karandeep Kochhar returned a card of 73 in the third round to slip tied-4th at the International Series Japan in Chiba, Japan on Saturday. With 73 he is now 8-under and tied 4th after being tied second at the halfway stage. The other Indian in the field Jeev Milkha Singh struggled to 7-over 78 and was now 6-over for two rounds and tied-71st. Gaganjeet Bhullar, SSP Chawrasia, Jyoti Randhawa and Shaurya Bhattacharya missed the cut.

Aditi, Pranavi, Avani advance: Aditi Ashok was the top placed Indian after the second round even as Pranavi Urs and Avani Prashanth also made the cut at the at the Aramco Championship in Las Vegas. Aditi carded 1-under 71 to move into the top 15 of the leaderboard. The two other Indians to make the cut are Pranavi (76-75) and Bengaluru's Avani (75-76), both placed T-59 on the leaderboard with a score of 7-over par. However, Diksha Dagar missed the cut.

Shreyas fined: Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer was fined Rs 24 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during his team's IPL match against Chennai Super Kings in Chennai on Friday.

Zaman was being watched: Prominent Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman was already being watched closely by the umpires even before they changed the ball and awarded five runs penalty against Lahore Qalandars in the PSL, sources said. "The Karachi Kings management had brought to the notice of the fourth umpire and subsequently the match referee from the 13th over onwards that they suspected Fakhar was doing something to the ball," a source said. The source claimed the referee had asked the on-field umpires to keep a watch on the Lahore Qalandars team, particularly Zaman.

SRH look to show batting might

Cummins Returns Home For Scans Ahead Of Their First Home Game

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Hyderabad: Riding high on a 65-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders, Sunrisers Hyderabad will be brimming with confidence in their first home game — an afternoon clash against Lucknow Super Giants — at the Rajiv Gandhi International stadium on Sunday.

Sunrisers began their campaign with a loss to defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru despite posting 201/9 in the season opener, largely due to a disappointing performance of their bowling unit. However, everything fell in place for the 2016 champions against KKR.

T20 BASH

After piling up 226/8 — the highest team total so far this season — SRH bowlers did well despite missing Pat Cummins, who has returned home for a final scan on his back injury. He is likely to rejoin the team on April 17 subject to clearance from Cricket Australia (CA).

SRH coach Daniel Vettori was optimistic of Cummins' return. "As part of his schedule, he has to have a scan just to clear everything off on April 15. And all is going well because he's trained with us and he's looked really good. He'll rejoin the team and have a slow build up to hopefully play in a game in the back end of April," he said on Saturday.

SRH bet big on their batting. Openers Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma plundered 82 runs in 34 balls to lay a solid foundation against KKR. , Heinrich Klaasen (52) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (32) shore up the middle and with the likes of Aniket Varma and Sahil Arora to follow, it's a strong batting line-up with Ishan Kishan at the helm.

On the bowling front, David Payne proved expensive, but Jaydev Unadkat (3/21), Nitish Kumar (2/17), Eshan Malinga (2/14) and spinner Harsh Dubey impressed in the previous outing. Nitish's contribution with the ball gives his side flexibility.

Meanwhile, Super Giants endured a disappointing start, suffering a six-wicket loss to Delhi Capitals. Led by Rishabh Pant, they are still searching for the right combination. While Mitchell Marsh and Aiden Markram formed a successful opening pair last season, Pant's decision to open with Marsh and push Markram to No. 3 did not pay off in the opener.

With explosive Nicholas Pooran in the middle, it remains to be seen whether Pant will continue to open or revert to No. 3 — a position where he found success in the latter half of last season.

PTI

IN FOCUS: Abhishek Sharma

FACE-OFF
SRH vs LSG
TV TIME: 3.30 PM
STAR SPORTS
HOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

SRH	LSG
2	4

LAST FIVE MATCH
SRH W L W W W
LSG L L W L L

VENUE: HYDERABAD
WEATHER
34°C

Double for Advani & Chitra

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Seasoned campaigner Pankaj Advani played the big points well under pressure to edge out a fighting Pushpender Singh for a memorable double in his maiden pool Nationals at the Rotary Bhawan in Ludhiana, Punjab, on Saturday.

POOL NATIONALS

In the men's final of the 10-ball pool event, where fortunes fluctuated like a pendulum, PSPB's Advani had to score a come-from-behind 11-9 victory over his RSPB rival. A little later at the adjacent table, fellow Bengalurean Chitra Magimairaj staged a superb rally to overcome Neena Praveen of Tamil Nadu 6-4 in the women's final to complete an impressive double.

ALL SMILES: Pankaj Advani (left) and Chitra Magimairaj

Results: Men: Final: Pankaj Advani (PSPB) bt Pushpender Singh (RSPB) 11-9.
Third-place playoff: Shahbaaz Adil Khan (PSPB) bt Aayush Kumar (Pun) 5-4.
Semifinals: Advani bt Shahbaaz 9-4; Pushpender bt Aayush 9-5.
Women: Final: Chitra Magimairaj (Kar) bt Neena Praveen (TN) 6-4.
Third-place playoff: Natasha Chethan (Kar) bt Anupama Ramachandran (TN) 4-3.
Semifinals: Chitra bt Natasha 6-3; Neena bt Anupama 6-5.

'Humans are fatter than ever before — GLP-1s can bridge the gap between evolution and modernity'

__Susan A. Jebb OBE__, Chair of the UK's Food Standards Agency, is Professor, Diet and Population Health, Oxford University. Speaking to __Srijana Mitra Das__ at __Times Evoke__, Jebb explains weight — and well-being:

Photos: Getty Images & iStock

HOW THE TABLES TURNED: Once, humans struggled to obtain food which was often scarce — today, food is plentiful and cheap but our evolutionary track still leads many to overeat while leading sedentary lives, driving serious ailments and treatments like GLP-1s

Are we humans fatter now than ever before in planetary history?

■ On average, we are definitely fatter than we've ever been. There has been a steady increase in the average weight of nations around the planet. This is a consequence of enormous changes in the world we live in.

Humans evolved in an environment where food was scarce and you had to work very hard to get it — neither of those are true anymore for most people. Many around the world now have access to more food than they need — it's easily available, palatable and cheaper than it's been in a historical sense.

Alongside, our lives have grown less and less physically active. With gadgets and modern worklives, most people in high- or middle-income countries spend fairly sedentary days. To be physically active, you have to go out and find opportunities. That has fundamentally changed our world — food is now plentiful while energy requirements are low.

Hence, obesity is a perfectly normal response to what is quite an abnormal environment. Our evolution cannot keep pace with the rate of change in our environment. We were born with genes which encourage us to eat freely when food is available because it might become scarce later — those genes are not serving us well in a world of plenty.

What do you think of the spread of GLP-1 medications, including among people who are overweight but not diabetic?

■ These drugs are effective treatments for people who are very overweight. They mimic the effect of our natural 'I'm full' hormones. They actually demonstrate how obesity is in part a biological phenomenon as when you boost the 'I'm full' signals through these treatments, people spontaneously reduce their food intake and lose weight. However, as soon as you stop these drugs, your appetite surges back to its baseline levels. Then, people have to work very hard and exert high levels of conscious control to restrict their eating. For most people, that's quite tough — and they regain weight. These drugs must therefore be part of a holistic package of care — a healthy diet and physical activity remain absolutely crucial.

Should non-diabetic people even use these medicines to lose weight?

■ These were developed first for diabetes but they have been extensively tested for treating obesity and they have specific licensing and approval for this. These drugs have been repurposed but that's not unusual. It's reassuring they've been used for diabetes for some time and we haven't seen many worrying side effects.

Yet, once people stop taking them, don't they face the same high blood pressure, greater cholesterol, etc., they had before using GLP-1s?

■ We conducted a systematic review of the literature on what happens after you stop weight loss medications. We found that with GLP-1s, people would lose about 15 kgs — but, one year later, coming off the drugs, they regained about 10 kgs. It's also very dramatic since it's much faster weight regaining than seen after, say, traditional dieting.

Hence, there are key lessons here. First, within healthcare systems, we must understand obesity is a chronic, relapsing condition and people need long-term treatment. Those buying these medications must understand it won't be like, 'I'll take this for a year and get cured'. Obesity is a chronic relapsing condition and after stopping these treatments, people regain weight. Of course, any duration when you are less heavy has health benefits because metabolic harms are essentially a function of how overweight you are and how long you're carrying that excess weight. So, any time your weight is below where you'd have been otherwise has long-term health gains — the longer you stay at a lower weight will always benefit you.

As India grows economically, high-fat diets, accessed through ordering in, dining out and 'aspirational' packaged foods, are causing illnesses — what are your views?

■ I'm extremely concerned and worried for India. In the United Kingdom, poor diets are the leading cause of avoidable ill health — this is mostly from eating too much, consuming too many calories, saturated fat, sugar and salt. Each increases health issues, particularly cardiovascular, with cancer risks.

The first thing I'd say to India now is — look at the mistakes we made in the UK and avoid going down the same path. This involves action at several levels. First, we need a healthy food system where people can retain local foods and traditional ways of eating, which have been proven beneficial for health. We need regulations that support the maintenance of local food systems — and resist the worst excesses of big multinationals who sell products high in saturated fat, sugar and salt. In the UK, we're now trying to put the cat back in the bag — we've placed some guardrails around industry. There's been some tightening on advertising unhealthy foods to children on television and online. We've put restrictions on promotions offered in grocery stores. But we need to go much further because we are still seeing obesity rates rise in the UK.

NEW MENU: As diners learn of food value, more restaurants must highlight nutrition

What can the obesity crisis learn from how smoking was reduced worldwide?

■ Around 50 years ago, in the UK, more than half of adults were regular smokers — today, that's come down to 12%. Progress was made through three ways. First, we provided support to people who smoked to help them quit. Second, we limited the tobacco industry through restrictions on advertisements. Curbs were also set on places where people could smoke and the price of smoking was raised substantially through tax. Third, there was a shift in culture — it became 'uncool' to smoke. People found it socially much tougher to smoke because you just couldn't do so indoors and in many locations.

COFFEE — OR TOFFEE? From a grown-up drink, coffee is now like dessert

Now, obesity has several treatments — but we have to offer people support. Losing weight on your own is very hard — losing it with support is far more successful. Second, we must put constraints on the unhelpful practices of the food industry. Unlike tobacco, we're not trying to put the food trade out of business — food is a source of health and joy but it must be the right kind. We need food that benefits people and the planet. We must stop businesses from making money on the back of unhealthy food. The third challenge is shaping social norms to value healthy diets with fresh, minimally processed foods.

We humans are creatures of both mind and body — why can't we see the irony of a harmful food industry and a dramatic weight loss business growing together?

■ Often, there is a disconnect between our rational, objective selves and the much more automatic act of eating. We eat so many times every day, we don't give it much thought. We just slip into default mode. If something's convenient, we eat it before we've thought about the consequences. Each individual item feels small in relation to the rest of our diet. So, there's a gap between our best intentions — almost everybody wants to be healthy — and the incredible difficulty to enact that in reality. The environment we live in also makes bridging that gap hard. We are susceptible to making automatic decisions about food — and we live in a modernity where those decisions are often unhealthy ones.

India will now produce lower-cost weight-loss medications, reaching more people — given this, will the global food industry improve its act or just do more of the same?

■ I really hope this will be a wake-up call for the food industry. Perhaps GLPs are exactly the treatment the food industry itself needs — if a significant number of people take medications which reduce their appetite and limit food impulses, they will become much more selective about what they eat. The food industry will have to ensure products are carefully positioned for people who have become more weight-conscious. The industry could provide much more nutrient-dense foods, without excessive fat and sugar. Currently, the middle and lower end of market meals feature very large portions as it's become a value-for-money thing — but people don't need massive pizza slices that have 1,500 calories. We need to see portion sizes changing. We also need a shift in the global coffee culture which has grown over the last decade, where one cup comes loaded with cream, muffins and several hundred calories. All that should be replaced by much smaller portions of high-quality food.

I think more people will start saying, 'I'm controlling my weight but what else is food doing to my body?' They'll consider food's nutritional quality and not just count calories. We must ensure GLPs become a positive disruptive technology that can help people control their weight — and reform our food system.

Views expressed are personal

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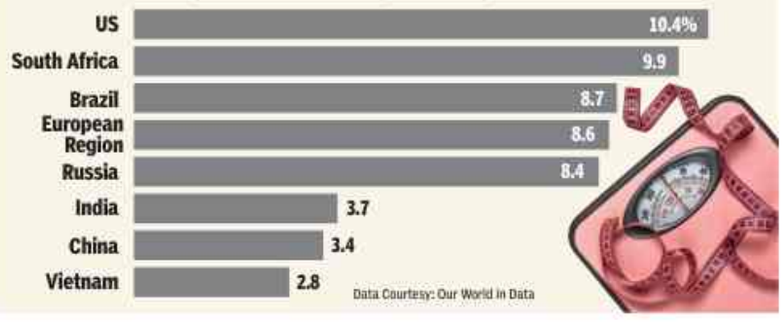
IT IS A WEIGHTY ISSUE: LIVES LOST DUE TO HIGH BMI

A host of serious ailments, from cholesterol to cancer, is linked to high BMI of 30 and above, threatening individual well-being and adding to the social cost of illness



Sreeshankar meets qualification

Ace Long Jumper Books CWG & Asiad Berth In Style; Ancy Edges Shaili

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Pics: Syed Asif

ON TOP: Long jumpers Sreeshankar M (left) and Ancy Sojan E in action

Bengaluru: Sreeshankar M began his quest to convert the silver medals from the last Asian and Commonwealth Games to gold in style here on Saturday as he met the qualification marks in men's long jump with ease. Also off to an impressive start were Ancy Sojan and Shaili Singh, who both met the Asiad standards in women's long jump as they finished 1-2.

ATHLETICS

The Kerala jumper, who trains at the NCOE in Thiruvananthapuram under the guidance of his father and coach S Murali, was in fine form from the start as he came up with five eight-metre-plus jumps in his six attempts. Hitting the board with confidence after running in strongly on the worn-out track at the Sree Kanteerava stadium, he began with a leap of 8.03m. His second jump was the only time he dipped below the eight-metre mark, and it measured 7.99m. Second-placed Sunny Kumar had a best of 7.9 metres ahead of Karnataka's Purushotham, who settled for the third with 7.87m. "I'm happy that I met the entry standard for both the Commonwealth Games (8.05m) and Asiad (7.91m). Now I've to continue the hard work to turn the silver into gold medals," Sreeshankar said. "When I came in and did the trial jumps, I was hoping to go near the 8.3 mark, but in most of the jumps I left a lot on the board."

The 27-year-old said he was confident of a good show (8.03, 7.99, 8.13, 8.15, 8.12, 8.1) as he had improved his fitness. "Last year, I couldn't push as the tendon was not holding up, but now I'm in good shape. Next, I need to work on my approach to get close to the board before takeoff," said Sreeshankar, who will now head to South Africa to take part in the Simbine Classic, a World Athletics Silver event on April 28.

The women's long jump result was settled based on the first-round jumps as both Ancy and Shaili went past the Asiad qualifying mark of 6.48m. Ancy took the lead with her opening jump of 6.54m, improving Shaili's effort by two centimetres.

Ancy hovered around the 6.5m mark in her next three jumps before touching the 6.50 mark on her fifth attempt. Shaili, meanwhile, saw her challenge crumble in a heap of fouls.

When she finally managed not to overstep on her sixth and last jump, she failed to take off and landed at 4.99m. "I'm happy with my effort today as it is the start of the season for me. I'm aiming to make the grade for CWG too, and I know I need a big jump (more than the national record). As the season progresses, I should be in a much better shape to go for that," she added.

The top three in men's 200m -- Jishnu Prasad, Vishal TK and Tamil Arasu -- and men's 800m -- Anu Kumar, Krishan Kumar and Satyajit Suresh -- met the Asiad mark. Joining them were Sarvesh Anil Kushare and Aadarsh Ram in men's high jump, Aboobacker in men's triple jump, Samardeep Singh Gill (men's shot put), Giridhararani Ravikumar (women's 100m), Vithya Ramraj (women's 400mH) and Baranica Elangovan (women's pole vault).

BFC hand Goa first loss

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AIFF

Margao: Two brilliant finishes, one worthy win.

Bengaluru FC struck early to take the lead and then killed it at the end to hand FC Goa their first loss in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Nehru Stadium in Fatorda on Saturday.

When **Sunil Chhetri** gave Bengaluru the lead in the third minute, Goa did not panic. Not surprising, given that in half of the games so far, Manolo Marquez's side has fallen behind, only to bounce back, even late in the game, to snatch a point. This time around, there was no comeback as Namgyal Bhutia scored the second in added time for a 2-0 win.

It was Renedy Singh's last match in-charge of Bengaluru with the club appointing Pep Munoz as chief coach for the remainder of the season. The former India captain, though, didn't seem unfazed and surprised many by opting for an all-Indian squad for the last 20 minutes, despite being pushed hard by the home team.

The win takes Bengaluru to 14 points, the same as title-chasing Mumbai City, Jamshedpur FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant. Not a bad achievement for a side that has only two foreigners – Ryan Williams "he's one of our own", remember – and a coach who's now on his way out. Goa are seventh with ten points. Goa knew they were up against a strong opponent with six national team players and two quality foreigners. What the home team wasn't prepared for was the early strike from Sunil Chhetri. The 41-year-old has not lost his scoring touch, as evident from his finish, a grounder from top of the box after Ashique Kuruniyan's pass was intercepted by Pol Moreno and fell kindly for India's greatest scorer.

Goa took the setback in their stride and soon showed just why Manolo is all praise for this unit. Sandesh Jhingan's header from a Dejan Drazic corner-kick sailed just wide, Brison Fernandes forced goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu into an awkward push for a corner, and from the resultant attempt, Moreno struck the outside of the goalpost.

Then, in the second minute of added on time, BFC's young substitutes proved their coach right. Monirul Molla flicked on a header to Fanai, who found Bhutia with a delightful through ball. The striker killed the move with a powerful finish.

MNKRP, DYES WIN

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Syed Asif

TUSSLE: Slice of action from the DYES Vidyanagar vs Bangalore Vanguards match

Bengaluru: MNK Rao Park BC boys held their nerve against Beagles BC 80-68, to emerge champions of the State Junior Basketball Championship here on Saturday. From being down three points in the last 20 seconds of the fourth quarter, to dominating the overtime, MNK Rao hoopsters stayed calm to take the cup home.

In a hard-fought victory at the Sree Kanteerava courts,

BASKETBALL

Aaksha top-scored with 24 points to help his team get past the Beagles.

Meanwhile, in the final girls' league match, DYES Vidyanagar registered a thrilling 77-74 win over Bangalore Vanguards to claim the trophy. Ishitha, the top scorer for the team in all the matches of the final stage, delivered once again scoring 24 points to help DYES home.

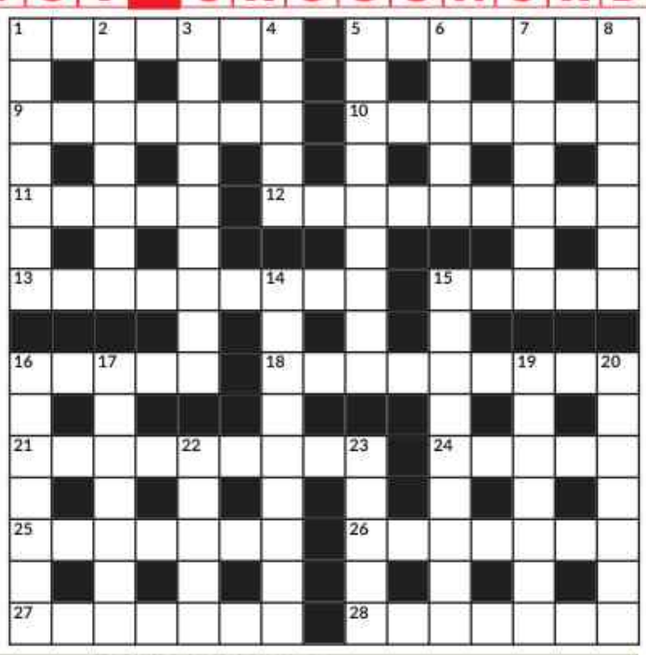
Results: Boys: Knockout final: MNK Rao Park BC 80 (Aaksha 24, Yashas 18) bt Beagles BC 68 (Dev Charan 27) after OT HT 27-25. **Knockouts:** HBR BC 66 (Rishith 20, Aadweek 16) bt PPC 51 (Ryan Joseph 23, Akshath 21) HT 34-30. **Girls: Final league match:** DYES Vidyanagar 77 (Ishitha Gowda 24, Nireeksha 12, Sheethal 12) bt Bangalore Vanguards 74 (Mahek Sharma 27, Aditi Subramanya 24) HT 43-31. **League match:** Beagles BC 57 (Adel 12) bt Mandya Dist 26 (Harshita 8) HT 38-16.

— Kaushal Kumar

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0266

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**



The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1 Recreation for Father's Day (7)
5 Used for cutting down the chat perhaps (7)
9 Shot at you as peas might be (7)
10 Enthusiasts may wax it (7)
11 Note reciprocation about a point of principle (5)
12 Dry-heated in order to lose moisture (9)
13 Order me a gin as a repeat order (4,5)
15 They man ships for a voyage we hear (5)
16 It is pinned on somehow, begad! (5)
18 The final, final chance to light a cigarette (4,5)
21 Elaborate passes for ordinary sailors (4,5)
24 French town one confused with Ur (5)
25 OK, take the lead (2-5)
26 Outsider - a good steeplechaser? (7)
27 Evidence of a leak? Tell the attendant (7)
28 Carried on in the nude perhaps though embarrassed (7)

Down

1 Steep as fluctuations in old Spanish currency (7)
2 Calculation involving bird and bone (7)
3 Tease Lila about being uncomfortable (3,2,4)
4 It's all over a point in the revised deed (5)
5 How cardplayers showed affection? (4,5)
6 Weary, tried a new way (5)
7 Metric substitute for the acre (7)
8 Bank employees who provide one with accounts? (7)
14 No-one at heart very nervous (3,2,4)
15 Be persuaded to call (4,5)
16 Stinkers in more than one way (3,4)
17 Get cleared in order to follow the Customs' advice (7)
19 Report of big air crash (7)
20 Century old political division (7)
22 He gets involved with any wild carnivore (5)
23 Sorted bales of fur (5)

QUICK CLUES

Across

1 Legacy (7) 5 Gaunt (7) 9 Free time (7)
10 Aware (7) 11 Saunter (5) 12 An unlikely tale (4,5)
13 Hold off (4,2,3) 15 Old hat (5)
16 Stage in development (5) 18 Central American republic (5,4) 21 Then and there (2,3,4)
24 Courage (5) 25 Self-confident (7) 26 Armed hostilities (7) 27 Most important (7) 28 Quell (7)

Down

1 Defensive wall (7) 2 Petty objection (7)
3 Mention one by one (9) 4 Apply medical care to (5)
5 South Asian mountain system (9) 6 A kind (5)
7 An open insult (7) 8 Held up (7) 14 Reverse one's earlier stance (4-5) 15 A dangerous structure (9)
16 Unimaginative (7) 17 Craftsman (7) 19 Utterly confused (2,1,4) 20 Without guile (7) 22 Mistaken opinion (5) 23 Rise to great height (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

C	Y	M	B	A	L	■	P	A	R	T	I	C	L	E
A	■	A	■	R	■	■	■	V	■	W	■	R	■	I
P	O	K	I	N	G	■	R	E	T	I	R	I	N	G
E	■	E	■	I	■	R	■	R	■	L	■	S	■	H
C	A	P	U	C	H	I	N	■	L	I	M	P	E	T
O	■	E	■	A	■	P	■	D	■	G	■	■	■	H
D	E	A	L	■	O	E	S	O	P	H	A	G	U	S
■	■	C	■	S	■	N	■	N	■	T	■	O	■	■
C	H	E	W	T	H	E	F	A	T	■	P	O	U	T
H	■	■	■	O	■	D	■	T	■	F	■	S	■	H
A	C	C	E	P	T	■	M	E	D	I	T	A	T	E
G	■	A	■	P	■	L	■	D	■	N	■	N	■	R
R	E	P	L	A	C	E	D	■	W	I	S	D	O	M
I	■	O	■	G	■	E	■	■	■	S	■	E	■	A
N	O	N	S	E	N	S	E	■	C	H	O	R	A	L

QUICK

H	A	W	A	I	I	■	F	L	O	T	I	L	L	A
O	■	H	■	N	■	■	■	E	■	R	■	L	■	T
T	H	I	R	S	T	■	P	A	N	O	R	A	M	A
F	■	T	■	I	■	R	■	D	■	U	■	M	■	N
O	V	E	R	S	E	A	S	■	A	B	L	A	Z	E
O	■	F	■	T	■	K	■	S	■	L	■	■	■	N
T	I	L	T	■	L	E	F	T	B	E	H	I	N	D
■	■	A	■	S	■	O	■	R	■	D	■	N	■	■
R	I	G	H	T	O	F	W	A	Y	■	S	T	O	W
E	■	■	■	E	■	F	■	U	■	S	■	H	■	R
S	O	M	B	R	E	■	A	S	I	T	W	E	R	E
P	■	O	■	L	■	F	■	S	■	R	■	D	■	S
O	L	D	T	I	M	E	R	■	H	I	T	O	U	T
N	■	E	■	N	■	A	■	■	■	F	■	C	■	L
D	E	L	E	G	A	T	E	■	H	E	C	K	L	E

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WHY GUAVA IS SO PYARA

Abhijit Banerjee

TASTING ECONOMICS

Being a city boy whose imagination was mostly fed by adventure stories, I was fascinated by the idea of climbing a tree to pick fruit. So, when I discovered that the house we were visiting had a line of guava trees in the garden laden with fruit, I really had no choice. Guava trees tend to branch out quite early, so it was barely a climb to get to one of the boughs that were, so it seemed, bending down with the weight of the fruits they were carrying. Then it was just a matter of sliding on my butt a few feet down the bough, and I was there, or so I thought, when I noticed some movements along my bare legs: there was a parade of robust-looking red ants heading straight inside my shorts. I won't spell out the rest, except that my mother was astounded by how fast I ran across the lawn towards the nearest toilet. And I learnt that guava trees house red ants who, when disappointed in their quest — I can't say what they were hoping to find — bite. Hard.

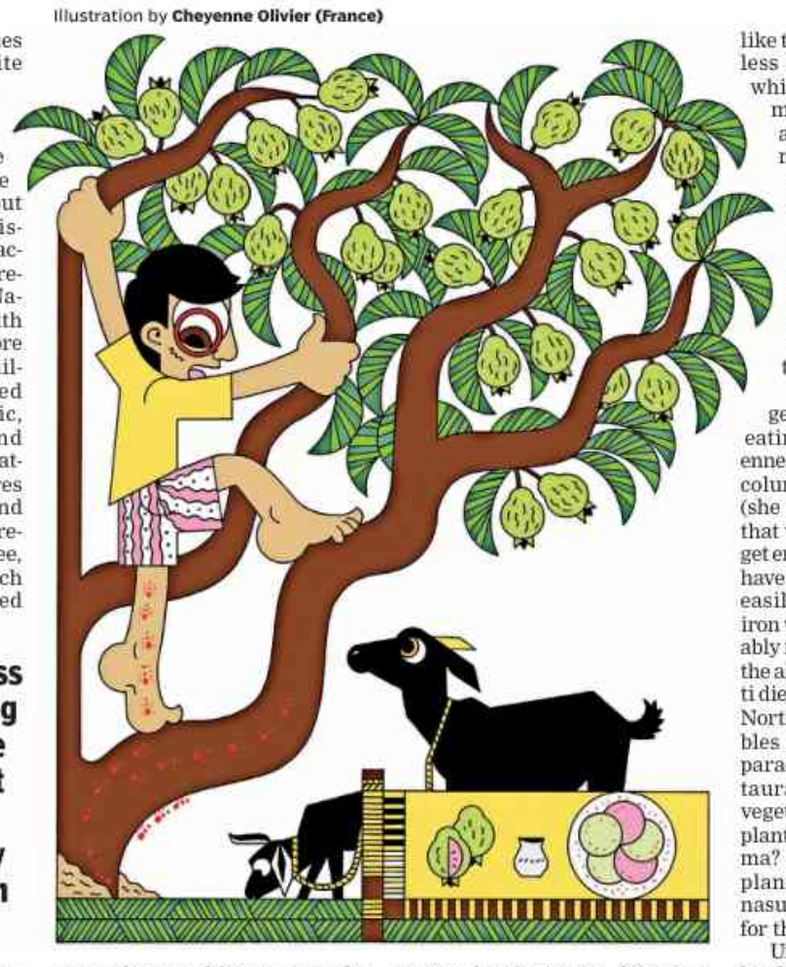
I still love guavas. Especially those we call *dansha* in Bangla, at the cusp of ripeness (which does sound vaguely obscene). Sweet and sour with a hint of acrid, a burst of freshness, a light bulb that lights up inside your mouth, great in chaats and salads. Full of vitamins, combining lots of fibre and a low glycemic index, and more surprisingly perhaps, a good source of iron (especially the pink ones). Apparently, the fact that they are high in vitamin C elevates our body's ability to absorb the iron: a 2024 randomised controlled trial, by a long list of authors led by Varsha Rani from Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agriculture University, finds that 6-10 year olds who were fed moong dal with guava for their school lunch over a seven-month period were 50% less likely to suffer from anemia than those who got just moong dal.

This is important, even very important, because there are two billion people with anemia in the world, and India has the highest: nearly 60% of women and children and more than 30% of males are anemic by the now accepted global norms. We have a higher fraction of anemic people than Bangladesh or Pakistan, more in the range of countries much poorer than us. Despite guavas being crisp, delicious and easy to pick (as long as you mind the ants).

The wide prevalence of anemia might make it seem innocuous, but that would be a mistake. First, because according to the most recent round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), more than 50 million children are reported as severely anemic, a debilitating and sometimes life-threatening condition that interferes with both physical growth and intellectual development. Moreover, among those under three, 9% are severely anemic, which puts them at risk of impaired brain development.

As people become less poor, they start eating like the elites — more paneer and less meat or foraged greens — which could be partly why anemia has risen

Illustration by **Cheyenne Olivier (France)**



Second, anemia in pregnant women is dangerous for both the child and the mother. According to a recent article in Lancet Global, severely anemic women are seven times more likely to bleed to death on the birthing table than moderately anemic ones, and while severe anemia is relatively common, my calculation is that about three lakh such women give birth every year, and a significant number of them die.

But even mildly anemic people suffer. Anemia reduces blood hemoglobin levels, and hemoglobin transports the oxygen that reinvigorates muscles. As a result, anemic people get tired sooner. In the early 2000s, a team including Duncan Thomas, who is a friend and a professor of economics at Duke University, carried out a large-scale (17,000 participants) study in central Java of what happens when working-age people, mostly farmers and labourers, take iron supplements. The study population was not particularly anemic — less than 8% of men were even moderately anemic, significantly below current Indian rates. Yet even in this population of marginally anemic people, iron supplementation increased productivity. The men slept less and worked more days. Earnings went up by 15%. That could be a lot of money for India as a whole, given the prevalence.

Unfortunately, at least in India, the problem is not solving itself. According to the NFHS, for most groups in India, anemia rates went up between 2015-16 and 2019-21. It is true that there was the pandemic, but the magnitudes are large enough to be concerning. For adolescent girls, the national average went from 54% to 59%, but in Assam, for example, the reported increase is more than 24 percentage points.

Of course, many factors drive these numbers — intestinal worms, for one, reduce iron absorption. Malaria does the same thing. And, of course, not having enough to eat — poorer people are more anemic. But the differences are surprisingly small: the richest group in the data (not the super-wealthy since they don't deign to fill out surveys) is only 20% less anemic than the poorest. And some of the richer states, like Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat, have the highest levels of anemia.

All of this, to my mind, points to an obvious culprit — diet. Richer Indians are more likely to be vegetarian, which can explain why the income gradient is not steeper. Relatedly, as people become less poor, they start eating like the elites — more paneer and less meat or foraged greens — which could be partly why anemia has risen. Bangladeshis and Pakistanis eat more red meat than us, and red meat is, alas, the source of the kind of iron that the body absorbs readily (liver, in particular, is a great source of iron, though I always resisted my mother's attempt to sneak it into my diet), which might explain why they do slightly better.

Now I am not about to suggest that vegetarians switch to eating red meat: for one, Cheyenne, whose drawings define these columns, would walk out on me (she is vegetarian). But it is true that vegetarians find it harder to get enough iron: even when plants have lots of iron, that iron is not easily absorbed. To get enough iron without eating red meat probably means moving quite far from the alu-paneer-dahi-dal-chawal-roti diet that seems to be taking over North India's vegetarians. It troubles me that in the vegetarian's paradise that is India, most restaurants offer just a couple of vegetable dishes, perhaps an eggplant bharta and a navratan korma? And though I will eat eggplant in any form, it contains nasunin, which makes it harder for the body to absorb iron.

Unfortunately, changing diets is hard, as all of us who tried at some point to reshape our bodies have experienced: millet kheer is nice, and definitely healthier, but my mouth wants kheer with Bengal's wonderful gobindobhog rice. Sugar-free ice cream is a nice idea, but I am happy to leave it in the freezer.

Anemia Mukt Bharat, the government's recently launched anti-anemia program, has therefore taken the alternative route of iron supplementation through pills and syrups. This could work for younger kids who get them with school meals, or even the toddlers who attend the anganwadis (but not everyone does), but for adolescents and adults, it relies on taking the pill on schedule, not once or for a month but potentially for their whole life. This is not easy and in addition, iron can be constipating, so people often resist supplements even if they really need them.

This is why WHO and many experts push for the fortification of staples like rice, wheat or salt with iron (and nutrients that support the absorption of iron). The government of India has also broadly accepted this idea for some years now. However, we still lack evidence that these fortified staples can be delivered at scale without losing much of their benefits. Especially in the hot and humid climate of much of India. And even if delivery is possible, will consumers want them?

In the early 2010s, the government started mandating that government school lunches be cooked with Double Fortified Salt (DFS), salt with both iron and iodine added. To understand how much it helps with anemia, we implemented a study in Bihar. Households in randomly chosen villages were encouraged to buy DFS by subsidising the price and improving access.

The study found some impact on anemia among adolescents, but the households really did not like the salt and stopped using it before it could have much of an impact. They claimed that it tasted bad (we couldn't taste the difference) and that it made the food turn dark (which it did). However, we sensed that they were also not convinced of its benefits — the only villages where people continue to buy the salt, some years after the initial intervention, were those (chosen at random) where we showed a sitcom that my childhood friend Pradip Saha made based on our script, aimed at persuading them. In it, a young man is worrying whether the son his pregnant wife will deliver will grow up to be strong (unlike himself, who is a bit of a joke in the village). He wants to do something about her anemia but finds it implausible that strength can come from salt. It is only when his old teacher tells him that guavas can also help that he starts contemplating the possibility that the body works in ways that he does not understand.

The government is now pursuing the path of fortified cereals by trying to make it mandatory in school meals and the public distribution system. However, establishing a reliable supply chain and a quality testing infrastructure for fortified rice has proved difficult, and recently the government has suspended its use in the public system.

This might be the right time to revisit persuasion. There are supposedly traditional varieties of rice that can deliver much more iron to the body than the now most common breeds. If this is true — it will need rigorous testing — creating markets for those varieties could be an important element of the strategy, especially since it reaches the more affluent groups who do not use the public schools or the PDS, but are almost as afflicted by anemia as the rest. And somewhere in the process, we should tell people about guavas.

This is part of a monthly column by Nobel-winning economist Abhijit Banerjee illustrated by Cheyenne Olivier

GUAVA RECIPES

Here are two simple and tasty ways to get more guavas into your diet

Images: AI

Peruchi Koshimbir (Spiced guava salad): Soak 1/4 cup moong dal in water for 4 hours. Drain and mix with 1/2 cups finely diced cucumber and carrots, 1 cup finely diced firm, almost ripe, guava, 1 green chili, very finely sliced and 2 tablespoons finely chopped cilantro. Dress with 1 tablespoon lemon juice and ½ tsp salt. Finish with a chhaunk of ½ tsp mustard seeds, 1 sprig of curry leaves and a pinch of hing in 1 tbs oil.

Guava raita: Grate 3 ripe (but not too soft), seeded guavas (1 cup). Mix with 1 cup not too sour-yogurt, 1 tsp roasted and ground cumin seeds, ½ tsp deghi mirch, ½ tsp salt, ¼ tsp sugar, and ¼ cup roasted and broken walnut kernels.

Inside Captain Baba's web of lies

Gitesh Shelke, Govind Vijaykumar, Abhilash Botekar & Santosh Sonawane | TNN

How a Nashik astrologer built a 30-acre empire using black magic threats, plastic snakes, and 'energised' seeds to abuse women, defraud businessmen

In a mango farm in a village near Nashik, a well became the unlikely stage for a carefully designed miracle. Here, police say, 'astrologer' Ashok Kharat (67) made remote-controlled plastic snakes emerge from concealed pipes on amavasya (new moon) nights to convince people he had supernatural abilities and power over real reptiles. A few hundred metres away, behind high walls and an ornate gate, is his farmhouse, where officials suspect several women who came seeking advice and blessings were sexually abused.

The well, farmhouse, a nearby temple and an airplane hangar-sized ceremonial hall — all part of a 30-acre 'ashram' in Mirgaon, 60 km from Nashik — are now under scrutiny as police probe a man whose influence ran so deep that politicians washed his feet and businessmen paid crores for rituals in forests across continents.

Powering Through Fear

Kharat was arrested on March 17 after a woman alleged he repeatedly raped her over three years, from Nov 2022 to Dec 2025, coercing her with sedative-laced 'salty-bitter' concoctions disguised as 'holy water'. "He would tell women their loved ones would die or they'd become infertile if they complained," says Nashik police commissioner Sandeep Karnik, who led the late-night arrest.

A school dropout who fled home after stealing his father's money, Kharat returned to Nashik around 2005 and reinvented himself as an 'astrologer' with the title 'Captain' to mask his past and build authority

Since then, two special investigation team (SIT) helplines have received over 100 calls in three days from at least 15 women or their relatives alleging sexual harassment or obscene acts during 'rituals' meant to fix everything from health to finances. Police have registered 11 cases — eight linked to sexual assault and three to fraud. In a rare appeal in the state assembly, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis urged victims to come forward. "No one who helped Ashok Kharat will be spared," he said last month. "There are disgusting allegations against this man," says Karnik.

That disgust is visible among people being asked for directions to Kharat Baba's properties in Mirgaon and Nashik, where he ran a real-estate consultancy in Canada Corner.

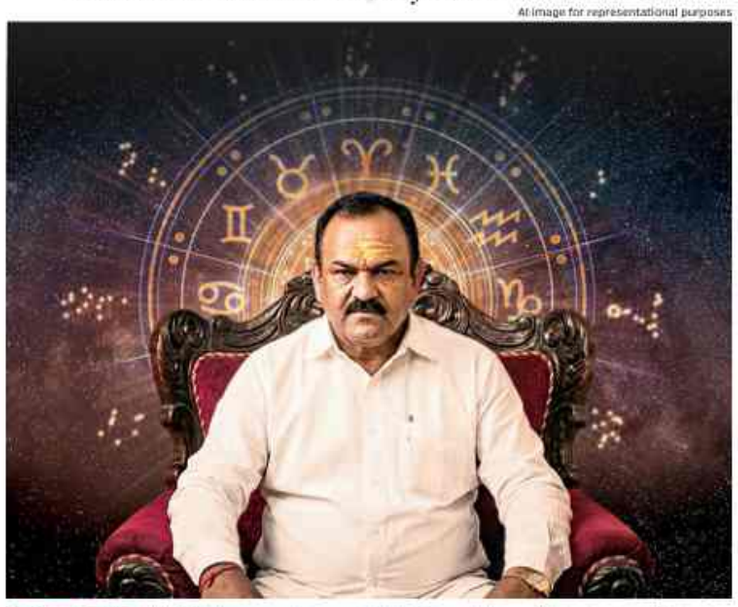
Captain Who Wasn't

The glass-panelled office has since been sealed. Police believe it was the site of many alleged crimes, including one particularly heinous act, caught on a hidden camera, that purportedly shows him standing behind a woman and urinating into a cup. Over 50 such clips are now being analysed.

Investigators say the recordings came from within Kharat's circle — an office assistant who installed concealed cameras after alleging his pregnant wife was sexually assaulted during a visit. The footage is believed to have triggered the first serious breach in Kharat's carefully managed image, cultivated since his return to Nashik around 2004-05, when he presented himself as an 'astrologer' after a supposed stint in the merchant navy. A school dropout from Kahandalwadi village, he left home as a teen after failing Class 10 and allegedly fled with Rs 4,000 entrusted to him by his father. When he returned, he adopted the 'Captain' identity to build authority, says Karnik.

His influence grew after some early 'predictions' appeared to come true. Complainants told police he sold 'energised stones', polished wild tamarind seeds worth Rs 100 a kg and passed them off as "blessed objects" priced between Rs 10,000 and Rs 1 lakh.

AI image for representational purposes



SACRED GAME: At his Mirgaon ashram, Ashok Kharat drew followers, politicans, and the rich and powerful, even as whispers about him grew

In Mirgaon, residents recoil at the mention of his name. "He has brought shame upon us," says Bheemraj Shelke, a farmer. "We saw rich people driving there in big cars; politicians we can't even name. We knew something bad was going on, but when you see powerful people washing his feet, what can you really do? I hope those women find justice," adds Shelke. That's a key focus for Nashik police and the SIT — getting women who Kharat may have preyed on to file complaints. "Our women officers have managed to convince some to come forward. I'm personally counselling families, telling them they'll have trouble if the women are disowned or kept from speaking to us," says Karnik.

Crores For Cures

One of Kharat's more lucrative tricks was convincing businessmen to fund rituals in "countries with dense forests" if they wished to be "successful". Police suspect he got clients to fund trips to at least 20 countries, including the US, France, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Uganda and Peru, among others.

Pune-based businessman Rajendra Jasud, 51, told police that from 2018 to 2024, Kharat used 'black magic' threats to force him to pay for trips to Myanmar, Greenland, Egypt and Bangladesh, as well as the construction of his farmhouse. Jasud said his association with Kharat — which began with a visit to the well with 'snakes' — cost him nearly Rs 5 crore, including a Rs 30 lakh medical trip to the US, furniture from Turkey and a Mercedes-Benz in 2023, allegedly extracted through threats of 'black magic', with warnings of death by snakebite or the collapse of his business. Investigators believe Kharat holds nearly 50 acres of land across Maharashtra, including Pune, Panvel and Nashik. "Most payments were made in cash. We are trying to trace his benami properties," says a senior SIT official.

Based on Jasud's complaint, police have booked Kharat under several BNS sections and invoked the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013, a state law created by late rationalist Narendra Dabholkar.

Red Flags

Members of Dabholkar's Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS) say Kharat first appeared on their radar in 2007, but they were unable to act as the law requires a victim complaint. "This really ties our hands," says MANS state secretary Krishna Chandgude. "We earlier trapped such individuals through stings, but the law now requires a victim complaint. Many don't come forward fearing reprisals."

He alleges several confrontations with Kharat. "A local reporter first told us about him in 2007," he says. "But when we went to challenge him, local industrialists and even officials tried to shield him." He recalls another encounter in 2013, when 'trustees' of Kharat's organisation warned MANS members they would be "wiped out" if they continued their activism. The group protested again in 2022, when then chief minister Eknath Shinde visited Kharat's temple in Mirgaon.

"The visit wasn't part of his official itinerary," says Chandgude. "Someone in a constitutional post should not be seen encouraging superstition." Shinde later said he was there only to offer prayers. Chandgude also alleges Kharat threatened them with a firearm during an early encounter. The mention of a weapon has drawn attention to another line of inquiry — possible human sacrifice. Last month, the prosecution told a Nashik court that police had found a revolver and five spent cartridges at Kharat's Mirgaon farmhouse. "We want to know where he may have fired the rounds, and why. There could be a possibility of human sacrifice," an SIT officer says.

Karnik says his team moved quickly to arrest Kharat, fearing he was a flight risk. Kharat is currently lodged in Nashik Road Central Prison while his wife Kalpana and another accused are absconding.

With inputs from ***Mohammed Akhef***

MODUS OPERANDI

Staged 'miracles': Used remote-controlled plastic snakes to convince followers he had supernatural powers

Fear factor: Invoked black magic, warning followers of death, infertility or financial ruin if questioned

'Blessed' objects: Sold wild tamarind seeds as sacred items priced between ₹10,000- ₹1 lakh

Rituals for the rich: Persuaded businessmen to fund costly 'rituals' in foreign countries

Behind closed doors: Women allege they were abused and raped after being given sedative-laced 'holy water' and later abortion pills

Deepfake dadajis make it to the shaadi, thanks to AI

Mohua.Das@timesofindia.com

At first glance, it appears to be an ordinary wedding with shehnai in the background. But soon, the music dips and a large screen lights up to reveal a set of gates amidst the clouds. They part, and a staircase emerges. And then a familiar figure descends — someone deceased but now resplendent in wedding regalia, greeting family members, blessing the couple, sometimes even speaking. Across India, some families are using AI animated deepfakes for resurrecting deceased loved ones — also called deadbots or griefbots — in wedding montages, or even conversational avatars in celebratory videos.

In one such video, a sister brings back her brother to attend her wedding. The screen turns into a phone interface flashing 'calling bhaiya'. The frame zooms out as if connecting two worlds. Her brother walks in wearing a kurta, carrying a gift. Midway, he morphs into wedding attire, dholak in hand, at the sangeet. His sister watches, crying, as the edit folds him into the celebration. Another shows a grandmother descending from the clouds to a familiar Kerala before walking into her daughter's home to cuddle and bless the grandchild she never lived to see. The video clocked 23 million views. On social media, these clips are paired with reaction footage of guests wiping tears or covering their faces in a moment of disbelief. That mix of spectacle and emotion has driven demand across the country, fuelled by Instagram reels and WhatsApp forwards.

The roots of this trend lie in the experimental corners of the internet. "We were recreating AI characters of famous politicians and actors who had passed away," says Trivandrum-based Akhil Vinayak, founder of Kanavu Kadha, a Kerala-based AI ad agency. After his early video of Oommen Chandy and V S Achuthanandan in conversation went viral, personal requests began pouring in.

In one video, a deceased brother dressed in wedding attire, walks into his teary-eyed sister's sangeet with a dholak in hand

Until even a couple of years ago, working off a single photograph was a gamble. Now, even poor-quality, damaged or black-and-white passport photos can be cleaned up, colour-corrected, and used. "We can even clone the original voice and get them to converse, which families find most enticing," says Vinayak. Pricing reflects how far families want to push the illusion. At one end, wedding photographers charge around Rs 8,000 for a minute-long video. More layered edits with voice cloning can go up to Rs 50,000.

Boutique studios and freelance wedding photographers are mixing traditional editing and motion graphics with newly acquired AI tools like Sora, Nano Banana and Midjourney. Wedding photographer Shubham Gupta in Aligarh stumbled into this service almost by accident last October and has made 30 such AI videos since. "It started with this bride, who gave us a photo of her grandfather-in-law who had passed away before they met, and wanted us to photoshop him into a family portrait. We realised maybe we could use AI to create a video of this moment." A few YouTube tutorials later, his first deepfake was ready.

At the wedding, the screen flashed 'calling dadaji'. The call connected, and Dadaji — in pagri, kurta, waistcoat — emerged through clouds, blessing and hugging the family, even speaking to them. Family members watching the scene broke down. "It was an emotional moment because it had only been six months since he had passed," recalls Sakshi Sharma in Gurgaon.

UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL: In the viral wedding video, an AI avatar of the deceased patriarch emerges through clouds, greeting everyone

This togetherness is as much about curiosity as it is about grief. "We get a lot of inquiries where people have never seen their grandparents except in photos," says Vinayak. "They want to see how they would look and behave if they came alive." Faridabad-based motion graphics designer Sachin Prajapati faced an unusual challenge when south Delhi's Twinkle Gupta requested an AI video of her late paternal grandparents and maternal grandfather for her parents' 25th anniversary. "We didn't even have proper photographs, just very old black-and-white pictures, mostly of their faces," she says. It meant building their avatars from scratch. "Maintaining face consistency is a challenge, but we can manage up to 80-90% now," Prajapati says.

In the finished video, all three avatars come together to bless the couple, pose for a family portrait, and then recede into the clouds. The experience took time to settle. "My parents went completely silent for the first 15 minutes before getting teary. It took them days, even months, to process it fully. Farhan Abbasi from Aligarh, who commissioned a recreation of his father for his brother's wedding, explains it made the moment better, but also heightened the absence. "My mother got very emotional. It brought back a lot of memories." Since then, the video hasn't been revisited much.

What that sense of presence does beyond the emotional high is harder to pin down. The rise of AI simulations of the deceased also raises ethical questions around recreating someone without consent, worries clinical psychologist Radhika Bapat. That unease extends to what these may be doing to grief itself. "It's a disruption of the natural mourning progression," she says, adding that in some cases, "it can also become pathological because it stops you from fully confronting the reality of bereavement." Part of the discomfort lies in how easily these recreations blur emotional boundaries. "People use griefbots like a band-aid. But it's more like a drug. That false sense of comfort can unsettle the brain's adaptation and healing process," she says.

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Stage Event

Time - 10.30 AM

Venue - Grand Steps of Vidhana Soudha

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Iran says Iraq exempt from any Strait of Hormuz curbs

Russia Evacuates 198 Workers As Strikes Hit Bushehr N-Plant Again

Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya joint military command said Iraq would be exempt from any restrictions on transit through the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian media reported on Saturday. "We announce that our brotherly country of Iraq is exempt from any restrictions we have imposed on the Strait of Hormuz, and these restrictions only apply to enemy countries," spokesman Ebrahim Zolfaghari told state television.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy said earlier in the day that it had hit an Israel-linked vessel with a drone, setting it on fire, in the Strait of Hormuz.

Russia evacuates 198 from nuclear power plant

Alexei Likhachev, head of Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom, said 198 workers were evacuated from Iran's Russian-built nuclear power plant in Bushehr.

This was a third evacuation from the facility in southern Iran on the Gulf coast, with about 100 Russian staff remaining there by now; 400 have already been evacuated from the plant.

Likhachev said the "biggest evacuation wave" began Saturday morning, shortly after a fourth strike hit the nuclear plant, killing a security guard, who was an Iranian citizen. Buses with the evacuated workers left for neighbouring Armenia.

Likhachev said the strike hit the plant's physical security perimeter but the likelihood of a possible nuclear incident "is unfortunately only increasing by the day."

Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi posted on social media that radioactive fallout from continued attacks on the Bushehr nuclear power plant "will end life" in regional capitals, not Tehran.

AFP

'US-ISRAEL AIR RAIDS HIT OVER 30 IRAN UNIVERSITIES': The damaged building of Shahid Beheshti University following a strike, in Tehran on Saturday. US-Israeli strikes have hit over 30 universities across Iran since the war broke out in late Feb, Iran's science minister said

Israeli military says soldier killed in Lebanon fighting

Israeli military said a soldier was killed Saturday in fighting in southern Lebanon, where its forces are engaged in clashes with Iran-backed Hezbollah militants.

Israeli emergency services said its crew treated five injured in Tel Aviv following an Iranian missile attack.

'Israel awaits US nod to attack Iranian energy sites'

Israel is preparing to attack Iranian energy facilities but is awaiting a green light from the United States, a senior Israeli defence official said on Saturday, adding that any such attacks would likely come within the next week.

Sadr supporters rally in Baghdad against war

Tens of thousands of supporters of Iraqi Shi'ite leader Moqtada Sadr rallied in Baghdad and across the country, condemning Israel and the US and demanding an end to the war. AP, AFP, REUTERS

Iran situation has Trump, unforgiving critic of past American wars, in a bind

▶Continued from page 1

Trump has not commented directly on the incident. On Saturday morning, he posted, "Remember when I gave Iran ten days to MAKE A DEAL or OPEN UP THE HORMUZ STRAIT. Time is running out - 48 hours before all Hell will reign down on them. Glory be to GOD!"

On test now is whether he can keep boasting about his aura of invincibility or if it will come tumbling down. For years, Trump has wielded history as a political weapon. He has routinely invoked the 1979 Iran hostage crisis to portray Jimmy Carter as the embodiment of American humiliation, often declaring that such a crisis would have been resolved "in 24 hours" under his leadership. He has ridiculed Biden over the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, branding it "the greatest embarrassment in the history of our country".

His critiques have not spared fellow Republicans. Trump has repeatedly labelled the Iraq invasion under George W Bush as the "worst single mistake" in US history, citing flawed intelligence on weapons of mass destruction, something that is being attributed to his administration with respect to Iran. He has also derided Barack Obama for failing to enforce his "red line" in Syria and for negotiating the Iran nuclear deal.

Against this backdrop, the downed F-15 and missing pilot present an acute vulnerability with critics pointing out that this is precisely the kind of situation Trump has spent a decade saying would never happen under him. Trump surrogates are holding their breath hoping the missing pilot is rescued rather than captured, even as Iran has launched an all-out hunt for him while announcing a bounty.

Despite the battering, Iranians gloated over the missing pilot on Friday. Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad-Bagher Qalibaf mocked the US in a post on X, writing, "After defeating Iran 37 times in a row, this brilliant no-strategy war they started has now been downgraded from 'regime change' to 'Hey! Can anyone find our pilots? Please?' Wow. What incredible progress. Absolute geniuses."

The administration has released limited details about the rescue effort, but officials indicate that special operations forces, supported by surveillance and electronic warfare assets, are attempting to locate and extract the pilot. Military planners acknowledge that time is critical. The prospect of the pilot being captured and paraded for propaganda purposes evokes painful historical parallels.

Compounding the pressure is the broader trajectory of the conflict. US interlocutors concede that air asset losses have been higher than anticipated, with Iranian defences proving more resilient and adaptive. Each additional loss not only erodes operational capacity but also chips away at the perception of overwhelming American dominance that Trump has sought to project.

For Trump, the rescue mission is more than a military operation; it is a test of credibility. A successful extraction would reinforce his claims of decisive leadership and operational superiority. Failure, however, could hand critics a potent counterexample, undermining years of political messaging. In a presidency defined by bold claims and sharp contrasts with the past, the fate of one pilot now carries disproportionate weight — both on the battlefield and in the court of public opinion.

A RARE HIT ON US AIR COMBAT POWER IN 23 YEARS

- Iran shot down a **US F15-E Strike Eagle fighter jet** Friday, with one service member getting rescued and the **search still underway for a second, US officials say.** Iranian state media also said a US A-10 attack aircraft crashed after being hit by Iranian defence forces
- The attacks came five weeks after US and Israeli strikes first pounded Iran, with **Trump saying earlier this week that Tehran's "ability to launch missiles and drones is dramatically curtailed"**
- The last time a US fighter jet was shot down in combat was **an A-10 Thunderbolt II during the 2003 US invasion of Iraq,** according to Air Force Brig Gen Houston Cantwell, a former F-16 fighter pilot. The pilot safely ejected and was rescued, according to the US Air Force
- The **F-15E Strike Eagle is a dual-role fighter designed to perform air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.** An array of avionics and electronics systems gives the F-15E the capability to fight at low altitude, day or night and in all weather

Iran shooting down two American military aircraft marks an exceedingly rare assault for the US that has not happened in more than 20 years and shows the Islamic Republic's continued ability to hit back despite President Donald Trump asserting it has been "completely decimated"

US F15-E Strike Eagle

Shoulder-fired missile likely used?

- American planes **have been flying missions at lower altitudes**, which makes them more vulnerable to Iran's missiles
- It's possible that Iran fired at the F-15 with a surface-to-air missile, but **it's more likely that a portable, shoulder-fired, much harder-to-detect missile was used**, says an expert

Pilots are trained on what to do if their plane is hit

American forces have flown more than **13,000** missions in the Iran war while striking more than **12,300** targets

In high-threat environments like missions over Iran, **an aviator's blood pressure goes up and they become highly alert to incoming missiles.** Those are typically either infrared- or radar-guided missiles, requiring different evasive tactics. **If they are hit and need to eject from their aircraft, pilots are trained on what to do next.** Pilots learn to check for wounds after a violent ejection and the shock of a missile explosion and, most crucially, how they are going to communicate their location so rescuers can find them

Helicopters are more at risk than other aircraft

More US helicopters have been shot down in recent decades, including **an MH-47 Army Chinook helicopter that was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade** in Afghanistan in 2005, killing 16. Helicopters are more dangerous because "the lower and the slower, the more susceptible you are."

When a chopper and aircraft exploded over Tehran in 1980

A military helicopter and airplane **exploded in 1980 during an aborted mission** to rescue several dozen American hostages at the US embassy in Tehran, according to the Air Force Historical Support Division. After a series of setbacks, including severe dust storms and mechanical failures, the mission was called off. As the aircraft took off, **the rotor blades of one of the RH-53 helicopters collided with an EC-130 aircraft** full of fuel and both exploded, killing eight

Source: AP

US deploys bulk of its stealthy long-range missile for Iran war

The next steps in the US military campaign against Iran will commit nearly its entire inventory of stealthy JASSM-ER cruise missiles, drawing them from stockpiles devoted to other regions.

The order to pull the $1.5 million weapon from Pacific stockpiles was issued at the end of March, according to a person with direct knowledge of the matter. Missiles at US facilities elsewhere, including the continental US, will be moved to US Central Command bases or Fairford in the UK.

After the moves, only about 425 JASSM-ER out of a prewar inventory of 2,300 will remain available for the rest of the globe. That would be roughly enough for 17 B-1B bombers on a single mission. The JASSM-ER, or Joint Air-to-Surface Missile-Extended Range, can fly over 600 miles (965km) and was designed to hit targets at a safer distances to avoid an enemy's air defences.

Supplies of missile interceptors and long-range strike weapons have been an issue since the air campaign began on Feb 28. Replacing what has been used would take many years' worth of production at current levels. BLOOMBERG

Iran executes two linked to oppn grp

Iran on Saturday executed two men it said were convicted of links to opposition group People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI), and of carrying out armed attacks, media reported. The executions were the latest in recent days of individuals with PMOI links. PMOI said the duo were arrested in Jan 2024 and had their death sentences upheld in Dec 2025. REUTERS

US agents arrest kin of slain Iran commander, revoke their green cards

Washington: US federal agents have detained the niece and grand-niece of late Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani after secretary of state Marco Rubio revoked their lawful permanent resident status, the state department said on Saturday.

"Hamideh Soleimani Afshar and her daughter are now in the custody of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement," the state department said in a statement, saying also that Rubio revoked their green cards. Soleimani was killed in a Jan 2020 US airstrike in Baghdad during President Donald Trump's first term in office.

The state department said Afshar supported Iran's govt and its propaganda. It also said Afshar's husband was barred from entering the United States. The detention came as the US-Israeli war against Iran entered its sixth week. The state department added that earlier this month, Rubio terminated the legal status of Fatemeh Ardeshir-Larijani, the daughter of veteran Iranian politician Ali Larijani, and her husband Seyed Kalantar Motamedi. Ardeshir-Larijani and Motamedi are no longer in the United States and are barred from future entry, according to the state department.

Ali Larijani, an architect of Iran's security policy, was killed in mid-March by a US-Israeli air attack. In his second term in office, Trump's administration has stepped up deportation attempts against immigrants, calling them threats. REUTERS

Pak rejects reports of collapse of its bid to facilitate US-Iran talks

Islamabad: Pakistan on Saturday rejected media reports and social media claims that its bid to facilitate talks between the US and Iran to end the ongoing West Asia conflict had hit obstacles after initial exchange of peace proposals. Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi in a statement rejected the media reports as "baseless" and a "figment of imagination".

The Dawn newspaper had reported that an unnamed official said some ground had been covered, with messages relayed between Washington and Tehran, but the absence of a clear Iranian signal has slowed momentum at this critical stage. "It is surprising that despite the obliteration of significant naval, air force, and other military and civilian infrastructure, Iran has not responded positively to calls for negotiations," the official, who is familiar with the discussions, was quoted as saying. PTI

UN official: Israeli forces destroyed 17 peacekeeper cameras in Lebanon

Israeli forces destroyed 17 surveillance cameras linked to the UN peacekeepers' main headquarters in southern Lebanon's coastal town of Naqura in 24 hours, a UN security official who requested anonymity said on Saturday.

Since March 2, the UN force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has been caught in the crossfire in the country's south, with Hezbollah launching attacks on Israel and its troops, and Israeli forces pushing into border towns.

UNIFIL spokeswoman Kandice Ardiel said peacekeepers had seen "Israeli soldiers conducting demolitions of large parts" of Naqura since the start of the week. "Not only have these demolitions destroyed civilian homes and businesses, but the strength of the blasts have caused damage to UNIFIL's headquarters."

Indonesia receives 3 peacekeepers' bodies

Indonesia received the bodies of three peacekeepers on Saturday who were killed while on deployment in Lebanon and called for security guarantees for blue helmets a day after another three of its soldiers were injured. The soldiers' coffins, draped in the Indonesian flag, arrived at the international airport and were carried into a hall on the shoulders of uniformed comrades for a ceremony attended by President Prabowo Subianto. Family members of the men wept over the coffins, each fronted by a photograph of the dead soldier. AFP

AP

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto comforts relatives of peacekeepers killed while serving with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, on Saturday

Italian PM in UAE on final leg of Gulf trip

Italian PM Giorgia Meloni arrived in the United Arab Emirates Saturday on the third and final leg of a trip that also took her to Qatar and Saudi Arabia. In Abu Dhabi, she was received by President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Meloni's office said their talks focused on the West Asia war and the conditions required to end it, "starting with the need to guarantee freedom of navigation in Hormuz".

In Doha, she and the Qatari emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani discussed energy, and possible measures to mitigate the shocks suffered. She told him "Italy was ready to contribute to the rehabilitation of Qatari energy infra, which is essential to energy security on a global scale". AFP

'Don't bomb', chant Israelis as they stage protests in Tel Aviv to end war

Carrying anti-war banners and chanting slogans against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, hundreds of Israelis rallied in Tel Aviv on Saturday to protest the war with Iran.

Demonstrators gathered in a central square, holding signs that read: "Don't bomb - talk! End the endless war!" despite restrictions on mass gatherings imposed during the conflict with Iran.

"Police are trying to silence our voice," Alon-Lee Green, the co-director of Israeli-Palestinian grassroots group Standing Together, said. "We are here to demand an end to the war in Iran, the war in Lebanon, and the war in Gaza which is still going on, as well as an end to the pogroms in the West Bank."

AP

Police remove a protester in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Saturday

Protesters also voiced scepticism about the govt's justification for the war with Iran. "I'm very suspicious of the reasons. I think the main reason is that Bibi wants to stop his trial," said Cecile, 62, who gave only her first name, referring to Netanyahu with his nickname. Netanyahu is on a trial in a long-running corruption case and has sought a presidential pardon, with Trump repeatedly pressuring Israeli President Isaac Herzog to grant one. AFP

DAILY PLANET

AP

A SOLEMN PRAYER: Paris Archbishop Laurent Ulrich carries the cross during the Way of Cross ceremony to mark Good Friday, outside the Sacre Coeur basilica in Paris on Friday

Some of Tokyo's cherry blossom trees are falling

Many of Tokyo's popular and iconic Somei Yoshino cherry blossom trees were planted during Japan's postwar advancement in the 1960s, and are now getting old and frail. Some have fallen, and many others require support. Two cherry blossom trees collapsed on Thursday, one at Kinuta Park in downtown Tokyo and the other at the Chidorigafuchi greenway. Last year, 85 trees fell in Tokyo parks, injuring three people, and many were cherry trees, according to Masakazu Noguchi, a Tokyo metropolitan official in charge of public parks. People gather under the trees during the season of hanami, or cherry blossom viewing. Following the March incidents, alarmed officials conducted tree health checks at Tokyo's main parks ahead of the viewing season.

Ex-matador killed by bull ahead of bullfight

A bull fatally gored a former matador who was helping to prepare a traditional Picasso-themed Easter weekend bullfight, organisers said Saturday. Ricardo Ortiz, 51, was unloading bulls at the La Malagueta arena on Friday evening when "one of the bulls gored him forcefully causing his death," event organiser Lances del Futuro said.

Judge: Trump admin can't ask colleges to give data on race

Boston: The Trump administration cannot force public universities in 17 US states to turn over sweeping amounts of data so it can examine whether they have ceased considering race as an admissions factor, a federal judge ruled on Friday.

US district judge F Dennis Saylor IV in Boston issued a preliminary injunction at the request of attorneys of those states that have challenged the new reporting requirement. It sought seven years of admissions data on the race and sex of students to track compliance with the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling ending affirmative action in higher education.

New York Attorney General Letitia James hailed the ruling, saying "schools should not have to scramble to produce years of sensitive information to satisfy an arbitrary and unlawful demand." The education department did not respond to a request for comment.

The states, which include California and Massachusetts, sued last month, arguing the survey's rushed implementation left universities vulnerable to inadvertent errors that could lead them to face penalties. REUTERS

Over halfway to moon, Artemis II crew set to break Apollo 13 record

Washington: The Artemis II astronauts have passed the halfway point between Earth and the Moon on Saturday as they sped toward a planned lunar flyby. The crew of three Americans and one Canadian will reach their destination Monday, photographing the mysterious lunar far side as they zoom around.

It's the first moonbound crew in more than 53 years, picking up where Nasa's Apollo programme left off.

Artemis II is poised to set a distance record for humans, travelling over 400,000km from Earth before hanging a U-turn behind the moon and heading home without stopping or entering lunar orbit.

The record is currently held by Apollo 13.

AFP

Nasa image shows the Orion spacecraft with the Moon in the distance, captured by a camera on its solar array wing, on April 3

58 tortillas, five hot sauces & 1 toilet: A space odyssey

They're sipping smoothies, snapping phone pics, dealing with crashed email and fixing broken toilets: astronauts, they're just like us. The four crewmembers zipping through space toward the Moon are carrying out a mission unlike any before it, but they're also still muddling on through life's mundanities — all while they float around together in a square footage equivalent to two minivans.

Mission specialist Christina Koch, the first woman to venture into deep space, said in a video released by Nasa that preparing for the 10-day journey was akin to planning for a camping trip.

Orion wares include 58 tortillas, 43 cups of coffee, barbecued beef brisket and five types of hot sauce. And one toilet... which had a problem. It's the first time astronauts venturing into deep space have had a real toilet onboard: the Apollo missions of the 1960s and 70s provided crewmembers with waste collection bags that were ultimately left on the lunar surface.

Much to the astronauts' relief, Koch remedied the issue with the toilet aboard Orion — "I'm proud to call myself the space plumber," she told a Q&A session Thursday. The toilet is in a small cubicle that's quite loud; the astronauts need to wear ear protection when they use it.

Nasa has updated its policy to allow smartphones in space: "We are giving our crews the tools to capture special moments for their families and share inspiring images and video with the world," it said on X in Feb.

Jeremy Hansen, Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Koch are the world's first lunar astronauts since Apollo 17's crew of three in 1972. Koch and Glover are the first female and first Black astronauts to the moon, respectively. AP, AFP

TN-born Rini in Washington DC mayoral race

Washington: Tamil Nadu-born **Rini Sampath** has become the first South Asian candidate to be on the ballot for the primary for the election for the mayor of Washington DC. The 31-year-old govt contractor from the Democratic Party has based her election campaign on the theme 'Fix the Basics' and the promise of "A new DC".

"I'm not a politician. I don't owe any special interest groups. It's time for an outsider who is relentlessly focused on fixing our basic city services," Samapth says on her campaign website.

Born in Theni in Tamil Nadu, she came to the US as a seven-year-old and has been a resident of Washington DC for more than a decade. "It's clear we have a real path to victory. In just four weeks, we made the mayoral ballot as the first South Asian candidate in DC history to do it," she said.

Washington DC is overwhelmingly Democrat, and has never had a Republican mayor since the elections to the post began in 1975. The primary is scheduled for June 16, while the general election will be held on Nov 3. PTI

Kyiv hits nitrogen nutrient plant in Russia's Tolyatti

A Ukrainian drone unit commander known as Madyar said in a Telegram post on Saturday that UAVs struck nitrogen fertilizer plant KuibyshevAzot facility in Tolyatti, in Russia's Samara region, overnight. While Russia didn't confirm the information, regional governor Vyacheslav Fedorishchev said that the area had come under a drone attack targeting an unspecified industrial enterprise.

KuibyshevAzot is one of Russia's largest nitrogen fertilizer producers. The crop nutrient has been in focus since the start of the Iran war and the closure of Hormuz.

Russia said drone debris hit a foreign-flagged bulk carrier off the coast of Taganrog on the Azov Sea. The fire has since been contained. BLOOMBERG

Russian strike on Ukraine kills five

A Russian drone hit a covered market in the eastern Ukrainian city of Nikopol on Saturday, killing five people and injuring 25, officials said, as Moscow pressed on with intensified daytime attacks. Russia has been firing aerial broadsides at Ukraine throughout its invasion, mostly at night, but in recent weeks it has stepped up daytime attacks. AFP